

**Comments** I am 100 % for the proposed rule changes . I particularly am interested in the rifle proposal. There are several states that have rifles as legal weapons namely one close to me kentucky . They have not had any increase in hunting accidents and there deer herd has not been hurt in any way by allowing these weapons . I think alot of the people that are against it are just afraid of change and will accept it after they see that it's not going to negatively affect them . This is a great opportunity for indiana to step forward . If there is reserve for passing it I say pass it for private property only for the first year to allow people to become comfortable with the idea . Thanks for your time .

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:55:02 AM

**Commenter Name** Matthew Postell  
**City** Salem **County** WASHINGTON **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** mpostell459@gmail.com

**Comments** I hunted in GA all my life, GA went by the counties on which weapon we could use, which I liked. Hunted with High powered rifles my whole life down there. Plus bow season opened up in september and Gun season opens 1st weekend in October and lasts til 1st weekend in January. I moved up here in 2006 and I don't understand the short gun season. Indiana compared to GA is way overpopulated with deer. I love bow hunting but 75% of the time cant get a clear shot. In GA after a few weeks of gun season deer get used to the guns and hunting is easier cuz of the length of time we can gun hunt. Up here, most people pack in the woods and feel pressured to shoot at anything that moves and I see alot of little deer killed...its sad, I dont care about high powered rifles cuz its a disadvantage in the woods. I love my .458 SOCOM and its the best woods rifle by far. I really want a two and a half month rifle season like GA cuz people will let the small ones walk cuz we will have more time. Hunting in GA and IN, GA has a better season lay out by far and IN has 10 times the deer thsn GA...GA license is \$19 and includes 2 buck tags and 10 doe tags. I know for a fact that opening bow season earlier and giving us a gun season like GA will make everything better by far.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:59:07 AM

**Commenter Name** Don Rutherford  
**City** Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** in  
**E-Mail Address** drutherford@mursix.com

**Comments** +1 to the DNR for allowing rifle cartridges to deer hunt with. Need to add an exception to the case length for the handgun to allow 10mm to deer hunt with:-)

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:00:53 AM

**Commenter Name** Jodi Mikesell  
**City** Columbia **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** mikeselljodi@gmail.com

**Comments** I am very concerned about the proposed use of high-powered rifles during deer season. I don't believe that many gun owners fully understand the power of the weapon they use. I fear that vehicles, homes, pets, and even humans may get shot due to this ignorance. It's not that I don't agree that more deer need to be harvested, I just don't believe is the way to accomplish that goal. It will put property and people in danger. I will fear driving down a country road during deer season with my family, wondering if a stray bullet from some overly anxious, horn-hunting, careless hunter may accidentally travel in my direction. I don't believe your average hunter understands how much further these bullets will go, nor will they factor in what is nearby or behind the big buck they are shooting at. I am a hunter and my husband and I look forward to training our young boys in hunting very soon. I just want it to be as safe for them to go out into the woods as it is now. Making a potentially unsafe environment, by taking a longer shot, should not be the answer to lowering the number of deer. Many hunters I know hunt very close to others' homes. This has too much potential to be extremely devastating.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:04:21 AM

**Commenter Name** David Haley  
**City** Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** dhaley.mail@gmail.com

**Comments** The .243 cartridge does not have sufficient power to humanely kill Indiana whitetail. This caliber simply is not large enough to provide necessary knock-down power and does not produce a large enough wound channel for the deer to bleed out in a reasonable time. Precision shots to the heart in practical field and hunting conditions is highly unlikely, even by experts. This small diameter bullet will be deflected by rib and shoulder bones more often than not. That said, the approval of the .243 pistol cartridge is ridiculous. Big bore magnums are not needed in Indiana. Last time I checked with Fish and Game, Indiana does not have any wild moose, elk, or brown bear. Big bore magnums are a public safety issue considering Indiana's population density and lack of true wilderness areas. I certainly hope common sense prevails in this new round of proposed legal deer cartridges.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:12:48 AM

**Commenter Name** Brent Cardinal  
**City** Tell City **County** PERRY **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** brent@brentcardinal.com

**Comments** I am 68 years old, have hunted all my life, supporter of gun rights, 2nd amendment, and I live in a county that is 2/3 Hoosier National Forest. Having said that, and knowing many instances of deer hunters (as well as turkey hunters) who shoot at "sounds" and are otherwise ignorant of gun safety practices, I feel that extending deer hunting to .243 and larger rifles is only extending the range of lethality for those who are ignorant of the potential of those rifles. While I realize that today's black powder rifles have nearly as long range, there are simply not as many hunters out there with muzzle loaders. I

can only imagine the results in areas where most hunting is in smaller woodlots!

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 11:13:36 AM**

**Commenter Name** Bradley Parsley

**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** b.parsley@dowcorning.com

**Comments** High powered rifles. This idea scares the heck out of me. My house is in a woods with property lines close enough to allow hunting by my neighbors within shotgun distance from my kids. That worries me enough as is. BUT with rifles I would be a nervous wreck.

Has any thought been put into limiting the use to only out of tree stands.

Also limiting the number of cartridges it can have loaded in the gun at one time. (like I believe there is for bird hunting, three only).

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 11:14:55 AM**

**Commenter Name** Melinda Bowling

**City** Darlington **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Indiana Bowhunters Association

**E-Mail Address** cowgirlup\_018@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am greatly concerned as a mother, hunter, and avid outdoorsman, about the proposed rifle law. I greatly fear for they safety of my family and myself to be in the woods if this law should pass. We have horses and ride all the time in our rural community. So that is also a fear, safety of our livestock as well. It would be a great disservice if this law should pass. I am strongly against this!

For safety's sake , please don't pass this law!!!

Thank you for your time,

Melinda D Bowling

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 11:16:39 AM**

**Commenter Name** Bradley Parsley

**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** b.parsley@dowcorning.com

**Comments** Bag limit for pan fish, blue gills.

This should be lake specific. Some lake do not have enough pressure and need the fish caught to maintain a healthy fishery. Other lakes the 25 limit would be wise.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 11:17:00 AM**

**Commenter Name** Randy Sidwell

**City** Pendleton **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rsidwell114@gmail.com

**Comments** Under sec 6 312 IAC 9-3-4 Sec 4 (d) 2 (a) reduction zone's- removing the current law of the taken of 4 deer to 10 in my opinion should remain the same if not less. This only opens the opportunity for those who just like to kill deer to do so legally. its great for those who need to really feed their family, but for others its a deer shoot. Were I live I have seen deer population cut down to minimum. I have heard third party talk from some hunters, "if its brown its down". That's not conservation.

Sec 7 312 IAC 9-3-9 Possession of a deer after a road collision. I noticed that the language another Law Enforcement Officer has been taken out for issuing a permit to the driver of a vehicle. Its my opinion that this needs to be left in.

Thank You.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 11:17:18 AM**

**Commenter Name** bill Taylor

**City** Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** billttrucker@gmail.com

**Comments** I have been a successful deer Hunter for 25 years an am strongly against a rifle season in Indiana it is unfit for the layout of r land in the state an unsafe this proposal should be trashed an never bought to the table again

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 11:17:27 AM**

**Commenter Name** Robert Kirts

**City** Freetown **County** JACKSON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** bkirts0630@aol.com

**Comments** I agree with the proposed rule changes

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 11:18:14 AM**

**Commenter Name** Mike Skeend

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** michaeliskeens01@hotmail.com

**Comments** As a life long resident of Indiana I am in full support of the changes proposed. I feel that the rifle hunting change should encompass any center fired rifle including the .223 round. There is very little difference in the .243 and .223 and many Hoosiers already own a .223 caliber rifle. This would allow citizens to hunt without the expense of rearming to a

specific hunting round. Thank you

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:20:24 AM

**Commenter Name** Travis Bane

**City** Fountain City **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Traviskbane@gmail.com

**Comments** I do not like this proposal. This proposal will allow folks to hunt with an ak-47 or sks with an 30 round magazine or a 50 BMG. We have to many people that don't practice with their firearm now. I would like the idea of low pressure rifle rounds 30-30 35 Remington 444 marlin 45-70. They're 200 yard deer rifles. I know we allow rifles for coyote hunting but I'm sure there are far less coyote hunters than deer hunters. Where did you guys find this 500 yard muzzleloader. I find that very hard to believe. But if this does pass I will hunt with a rifle. It will be from a tall stand and my shots will have a safe backstop. I can see someone on public land cranking out 10 or 12 shots out of a ak-47 at running deer.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:22:48 AM

**Commenter Name** William G. Boyer

**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** williamgboyer1949@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am an avid deer hunter but I am opposed to the new rules to allow high powered rifles.

The current rules and regulations allow for more than enough options to kill a deer. In addition to being an avid hunter I am a resident in the rural Angola area and have hunting all around me. I really don't want hunters shooting 243's across the open fields adjacent to my home, family, neighbors and me.

In my opinion, this new rule, if adopted, is going to bite you in the butt and you'll live to regret it. Again I love deer hunting-but enough is enough. Indiana has too much open and flat land where a high powered rifle such as a 243 can go a long way. PLEASE DON'T PASS THIS RULE.

Thanks Bill Boyer, Angola, IN. 260-665-6748 work 260-316-8004 cell

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:25:37 AM

**Commenter Name** Steven VanDeKeere

**City** Nappanee **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** None

**E-Mail Address** outdoor\_sportsman@hotmail.com

**Comments** Writing in regard to the proposal to add more rifle cartridges (besides the current list) to the acceptable list. I feel like while this will offer some hunters the opportunity to hunt with a great variety of options, the potential for abuse is very great. While the majority of hunters are responsible, many simply are not. I have heard first hand of several hunters speaking of the ease at which animals can be hunted, as well as the potential for long range shots. The VAST majority of hunters are not capable of making long range shots, and generally speaking don't practice enough to make humane shots on game at longer ranges. I also believe that people will be tempted to shoot across property lines more than now. Hunters have been able to keep the whitetail population in check very well with the current selection of caliber choices at hand while keeping firearms related accidents to a minimum. I feel like there is an unnecessary risk involved by adding a new set of cartridges to the current line up.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:26:53 AM

**Commenter Name** Mark Waltz

**City** Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Mr.

**E-Mail Address** mapawaltz@embarqmail.com

**Comments** i LIKE EVERYTHING SAIT IN THIS AMENDMENT INCLUDING THE USE OF RIFLES

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:28:54 AM

**Commenter Name** Victor K. Fitch

**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** vkblfitch@frontier.com

**Comments** NO high-powered rifles. IN doesn't have enough open country. Shooters (as opposed to hunters) will just be missing shots @ long range. To many shooters now just blast away at running deer. THINK of the potential damage to people, farm animals and property.

I am a deer hunter using a .357 mag rifle and a muzzle loader.

I hunt DeKalb County and much fewer deer have been seen by myself and other hunters talked to and much less shooting.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:33:14 AM

**Commenter Name** Cliff St Martin

**City** Rochester **County** FULTON **State** IN

**Organization (optional)** TimberWolf Trading Post

**E-Mail Address** wcstmartin@gmail.com

**Comments** By doing away with check stations and/or metal tags you are killing a tradition that many hunters have had for decades. Some of my best memories of deer hunting come from the stories of hunters told at check stations. I also feel that

the online check station is opening the doors for people to violate the rules easier. I own and operate TimberWolf Trading Post, which is also a check station. I know for a fact that there are many hunter's that do not have access to the internet or do not know how to navigate while on the web. I also know that there are many hunters that do not want the burden of going online and checking in their game; they would prefer to check it in at a check station and receive a metal tag, myself included.

There is no sense at all in opening up firearms to .243 or larger. Too many areas are over populated with hunters and the last thing we need is more firearms that can travel several hundred yards. I understand that modern muzzle loaders can travel 200-300 yards as I was almost shot this year by a hunter shooting across a field with his muzzle loader. We do not need a bunch of ignorant hunters in the woods with high power rifles shooting 10 plus rounds at the same deer. I own several rifles that I use to hunt with in other states and as much as I would love to use them here in Indiana, I don't want some of the hunters I have met using them. I am just one person so I doubt my voice will be heard, but at the bare minimum please put a magazine capacity of 3-5 rounds on any firearm used during deer season, especially if you are allowing .243 or larger firearms. Please tell me where in Indiana it is completely safe for firearms that can travel 300 yards plus.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:33:55 AM

**Commenter Name** michael hughes

**City** delphi **County** CARROLL **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** mikehughes1973@msn.com

**Comments** i would like to show support for the allowance of .243 caliber and larger rifles to be used for deer firearms season. the thought of only being allowed to shoot them from an elevated stand, ie. (treestand) with a minimum required height would be understandable given the flat terrain of our state. having said that, whether there are limitations on where they could be shot from or not i fully support the rule amendment proposal. those caliber rifles are already shot on a regular basis at predators and varmints and for target shooting.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:35:23 AM

**Commenter Name** Wesley Homoya

**City** West Lafayette, IN **County** TIPPECANOE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** whomoya@yahoo.com

**Comments** I was lucky enough to have seen a Ruffed Grouse in southern Indiana several years ago, but I fear that said occasion may likely be the only time I ever do encounter this fine bird in my home state. That is, unless we take the necessary measures to protect and restore the species back to true population viability. Hunting is a fine pastime and management tool, but for the Ruffed Grouse in Indiana it is a factor driving the extirpation of the bird from our state. Please make the wise decision for all present and future Hoosiers, whether hunter, naturalist, or plain citizen, and enact a moratorium on Ruffed Grouse hunting in the state until a healthy population returns.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:35:37 AM

**Commenter Name** Michael Barton

**City** Camby **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** barton174@gmail.com

**Comments** I think it's about time that we be able to deer hunt with real rifles, .243 and up! A lot of the wildcats have similar ballistics, but are expensive and custom. Modern, inline muzzle-loaders have similar ballistics and range to real rifles, as well, and there have not been increased accidents due to them, and it has been shown that lead slugs have more ricochet danger than rifle bullets. Using real rifles for deer hunting in Indiana is long overdue. Thank you for your time.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:40:15 AM

**Commenter Name** Nick volz

**City** My verna **County** POSEY **State** In

**E-Mail Address** Quicknic99@yahoo.com

**Comments** Regarding the proposal to allow high powered rifle hunting for deer. I am strongly in favor of this proposal because I hunt in the wabash and Ohio river bottoms where it is common to have opportunities for open shots of several hundred yards which are currently unavailable with most allowed firearms. I am pleased that you are considering this change and I strongly support allowing high powered rifle hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:41:40 AM

**Commenter Name** Terry Ballenger

**City** Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Board member, Amos Butler Audubon

**E-Mail Address** t.ballenger@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** I am completely in agreement with the proposed ban on a hunting season. We need to be better stewards of our environment and the protection of our wildlife.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:47:37 AM

**Commenter Name** Brian Ingmire

**City** Greensburg **County** DECATUR **State** IN - Indiana

**E-Mail Address** BEEYEFARMS@GMAIL.COM

**Comments** I support the proposed changes to the allow .243 and larger rifle cartridges for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:48:20 AM



**Commenter Name** Dustin Krantz

**City** Newburgh **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** krantz.dustin@gmail.com

**Comments** I affirm these rule changes, particularly in regards to deer hunting. The changing of language from "urban" to "reduction" zones allows a great deal of clarification of the purpose of said zones, as well as providing an opportunity to more clearly define those zones to hunters. I also think the inclusion of non-shotgun rifles into firearm season is a wise amendment. With a responsible caliber size (which I believe has been established), the use of rifles opens both access to individuals for hunting as well as the range a hunter may deliver a humane, lethal shot. I do think there would be some benefit to placing some restrictions on the use of rifles beyond ammunition. For the sake of safety, rifles being used in urban areas where there may be a greater chance of a projectile not being stopped before reaching an unintended target would be a cause for concern. Also in trying to preserve ethical hunting practices, I don't think the use of semi-automatic non-shotgun rifles is necessary. While these concerns are not critical if all hunters are certain of their surroundings and refrain from firing unless they know they can deliver a single, ethical shot to kill a deer, I fear there will be many shots fired at moving deer across a field, with the thought in mind that if a first round misses, there several more available immediately. With proper consideration, I believe these changes preserve the integrity of both hunting and wildlife, while also providing another avenue for deer populations to be maintained at healthy numbers, benefitting our ecosystems.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:51:13 AM

**Commenter Name** Rich Worman

**City** Ashley **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rwworman@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am in favor of the rule changes.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:52:42 AM

**Commenter Name** Phillip Hathaway

**City** VALPARAISO **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Mr.

**E-Mail Address** philhathaway@gmail.com

**Comments** I am writing to display my displeasure with how the state is handling the deer herd and the rules that are about to go into effect next year. I know this may fall on deaf ears and or may not be the right avenue but you are the head of the DNR. I have to say I have seen fewer and fewer deer the past two years especially does. I have also seen far fewer deer hit alongside the road. I ask are you listening to the hunters the ones that are actually going after the animals to hear they are seeing far fewer. It sure seems like the ultimate goal is extermination. I feel as though this bonus antlerless season is just a money maker for the state and not a good thing for overall stability of the deer herd. I feel as though this has become a big problem since we had the very hot summer of 2012 or 2013 and then the drastically cold winter of 2013-2014. The Dnr should have done a survey more regarding the deer kill related to the winter, blue tongue/EHD but again I feel as though that fell on deaf ears. I have another problem with the pending rifles. I live and hunt in northwest Indiana where most of the hunting is urban where you have a house within 100 or so yards of wooded areas. I have a high concern for people in those houses when people miss the high velocity magnum rounds will travel thousands of yards. Where will those bullets end up? What if someone is using one of those calibers from a ground blind and they miss? Where will the bullet stop? This is my main concern I think the DNR and state has overlooked.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:53:23 AM

**Commenter Name** DeWayne Lemler

**City** Nappanee **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** isaac0280@yahoo.com

**Comments** Regarding rule "312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting"

and in relation to legal Rifle Cartridge, Maximum length, I strongly feel it is not necessary nor safe to allow any rifle cartridge over 1.8" in length to be allowed for deer hunting nor anything smaller in diameter than .357.

To allow .243 diameter rifles and any cartridge longer than 1.8" in length for Indiana Deer Hunting would be irresponsible, problematic and complete insanity, to say the least.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:56:44 AM

**Commenter Name** Bill Rhodes

**City** North Manchester **County** WABASH **State** In

**E-Mail Address** bdrhodes1@frontier.com

**Comments** I do not see the need for Indiana using high powered rifles to harvest deer.

I feel there is housing density issues that will arise.

Will you have rifles open to all counties or southern part of state?

Bill Rhodes

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:58:06 AM

**Commenter Name** Thomas Ciskowski

**City** Worthington **County** OWEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tciskow@hughes.net

**Comments** I support these rule changes

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:01:47 PM

**Commenter Name** Chad Richhart

**City** Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** crichhart@pd.mooresville.in.gov

**Comments** I am against the proposed rule change to allow high powered rifles in Indiana for deer hunting. This would decimate our deer herd. It also poses a huge safety hazard across the state. Over the years I have watched the "war on does" really take a toll on the deer in Morgan and Greene County. Many deer survive because of the limits of using shotguns, muzzleloaders and pistol caliber rifles. Too many deer would be killed and wounded with high powered rifles. I do not care to be in the woods much anyway during gun season as it is. I would consider to stop hunting the gun season all together if high powered rifles were legal. The northern half of the state is too flat for a rifle, the central part of the state is too populated and the southern half has enough hills that a rifle is not necessary. I would support the use of 30-30, .35 Remington and 45-70 to be used in Indiana, but anything else would be out of the question. Our gun seasons are entirely too long in my opinion. We should follow suite with Illinois and Iowa and have shorter gun seasons. Most of the deer killed are done in the first weekend of gun season anyway. These long seasons add too much stress on the herd and prevents larger whitetail bucks from growing. Everyone I talk to is against the use of high powered rifles in Indiana. I dont think this is a nessary step to managing the herd, it would actually be detrimental. I see less and less deer every year. I also see 3-4 bucks for every doe I see. People are encouraged to kill too many does and the use of high powered rifles would just compound this problem. The use of rifles would not get any more hunters in the woods than we have now. All it would do is please a small group of "gun only" hunters. I hope this rule does not pass and I will be greatly disappointed if it does. Many parts of the state are still trying to recover from EHD. It will be hard on the deer herd and there WILL be a lot MORE gun hunting injuries and deaths. These bullets travel too far to be used in Indiana. Please do not pass this rule for our safety and for our deer herd which is a valueable resource.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:07:33 PM

**Commenter Name** Farrell Minor

**City** Wawaka **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** fminor@ligtel.com

**Comments** I have hunted Kentucky with a .30-06 since I was a teenager. I am now 42 years old. I would love to use my .30-06 to hunt with in Indiana, but I truly think it would be a mistake to allow everyone to have a high-powered rifle. A .30-06 has a maximum range of 7 1/2 miles. A 150 grain bullet still has a large amount of velocity and kinetic energy after passing through a deer at 400 yards. Enough to pass through a car door or wall of a house. The majority of Hoosiers have never hunted with a high-powered rifle and do not realize this. I am fairly certain most Hoosiers will storm out to the gun store and buy a new rifle and try taking these long range "bean field" shots. I hope if it does pass that no one is hurt or killed. I am fairly certain there will be some property damage until everyone comes to realize what these rifles are capable of. But, if it does pass, I will take advantage of it.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:11:47 PM

**Commenter Name** David N. Rogers

**City** Central **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** nursenick06@aol.com

**Comments** Rifle use for deer hunting: The adoption of most rifle cartridges for deer hunting will be a huge help to hunters, especially smaller, younger hunters unable to wield shotguns comfortably or accurately. Otter trapping: I fish Big Indian Creek from the mouth at the Ohio River to a few miles upstream, and otter sightings are frequent on every trip. I have been concerned about overpopulation, and allowing trapping will help keep this in check.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:12:25 PM

**Commenter Name** Vaughn Jenkinson

**City** Danville **County** HENDRICKS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jetmech2010@hotmail.com

**Comments** I agree with the change to the cartridge size for rifle during deer season. I believe it's past time Indiana allows rifle caliber for deer rather than just handgun.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:13:30 PM

**Commenter Name** Jerry L Pennington

**City** Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jerryipennington@hotmail.com

**Comments** I am pleased that Indiana will now allow the hunting of deer with high powered rifles, like most statues around Indiana.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:13:38 PM

**Commenter Name** John Stanley

**City** Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ioane67@aol.com

**Comments** No high powered rifles! Not safe for use across the entire state!Also, raise price on all non resident h hunting license fees.Cut all bonus deer tags, all state park reduction hunts for two years and allow our deer herd to rebound PLEASE! Nothing wrong with people taking the normal 2 deer during bow, one buck for gun, and a doe or buck during muzzle loader. Bring back our deer, if for nothing else, our youth hunters who aren't seeing any deer and are losing interest in something we deer hunters cherish.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:21:28 PM**

**Commenter Name** Kendall Boyd

**City** Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** kenbesq@yahoo.com

**Comments** Would just like to comment that I agree with the 25 limit rule for sunfish in Indiana. So many bluegill, redear, etc., have disappeared from a lot of our larger lakes and the gizzard shad have just taken over. Also, I agree with the 9" rule on the crappie at Hardy Lake. The lake is producing some big crappie, and I would like to see that continue. Now if only Patoka Lake could capture some of its past glory. :- ( Thank you for all that you all do and Happy Holidays.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:24:35 PM**

**Commenter Name** Eric Helfrich

**City** Churubusco **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Conqur1066@gmail.com

**Comments** Regarding 312 IAC 9-4-10, suspending the season for Ruffed Grouse seems to make a lot of sense, as they are so depleted and in danger of extirpation.

I have not seen any in Indiana for at least ten years, although they used to be found at Pigeon River.  
Eric H.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:26:17 PM**

**Commenter Name** Cary Hawkins

**City** Ellettsville **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** hawkinscary@gmail.com

**Comments** Currently open for comment are amendments to several rules governing deer hunting, including the use of high-powered rifles during deer hunting season. Please don't let this high powered rifles use in our state. Just asking for trouble if this law is passed. We have muzzleloaders and rifled slug barrels reaching out to 200 yards. Some people can't tell human or house beyond them distances so please drop this ideal.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:26:27 PM**

**Commenter Name** craig Emenhiser

**City** Monroeville **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** cdemenhiser@yahoo.com

**Comments** I don't think Indiana needs high powered rifles to be allowed for deer season. In our area we have so much open ground and so many people hunting the few chunks of woods that the range of a high powered rifle would put many people in danger. I would personally like to see it go back to just shotgun, and not keep adding more and more calibers and high powered rifles to the list.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:28:42 PM**

**Commenter Name** William Riffett

**City** Lake Station **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rhinobill@comcast.net

**Comments** I think amending the hi powered rifle law would be good change for Indiana...we've been hunting with hi powered muzzleloaders in Indiana for years...this would be great for Indiana hunters..

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:29:17 PM**

**Commenter Name** Kenny Missi

**City** Ramsey **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** kmissi@twc.com

**Comments** I firmly believe the rifle season will be just fine for hunting deer in Indiana. It will provide hunters with a more accurate weapon in order to take deer ethically. This will be a true asset for hunters.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:31:17 PM**

**Commenter Name** Tyler Frame

**City** Liberty **County** UNION **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tiframe@gmail.com

**Comments** I vote NO to adding .243 and larger cartridges to be allowed for deer hunting. An Indiana resident hunts an average of 25-80 acres of property with the addition of multiple hunters per property. The ratio of hunters per acre is too dense for such rifles. This rule is not about how far a hunter can shoot because we have muzzle-loaders that can shoot a great distance, but its about the irresponsible hunter that will have easily attainable capabilities that make them dangerous and unlawful. Such a rule change requires changes to other regulations first.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 12:34:53 PM**

**Commenter Name** Greg Baxter

**City** Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Phatbaxterin@aol.com

**Comments** I think with the population and all the houses in the rural areas of Indiana I don't Belive high powered rifles would be safe in many Indiana county's the rural areas are becoming very populated and the rifles greater distance and power wouldn't be as safe or ethical in most of Indiana. I think they should close grouse season and put them on the endangered

pieces list it has lost most of its habbitate and is barley surviving with a scarce population. Thank you

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:35:43 PM

**Commenter Name** Stephen L. Cole M.D.

**City** Butler County DEKALB State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** s\_l\_cole@yahoo.com

**Comments** I help teach hunter safety for the DNR. I have hunted from the Artic Circle to the tip of South Africa with a high powered rifle over the past 30 years. I have spent a large portion of my life studying ballistics and hunting bullet performance. I have a couple of concerns. First is that most hunters have no comprehension of the range of larger center fire rifles. Most of these shoot bullets that will travel well beyond the 5 mile range. Most of Indiana is too flat and populated to have an adequate back stop. Many of the proposed weapons are more than lethal at greater than 2 miles. I watch people empty weapons at deer running across open fields. Someone, two sections away, is going to get hurt. Second we only require an orange hat. If high powered rifles are allowed we need a 55 square inch minimum orange rule, much like Colorado. Some of my neighbors wear NO orange, once they leave the road, as they believe it violates their religious beliefs. We must make orange hat and coat manditory if the rifle requirements are to be changed. I do hunt with a 35 Dexter Long but I never shoot off my own property and NEVER if I do not have an adequate back stop. This proposal scares me to death.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:39:12 PM

**Commenter Name** Gary M. Haller

**City** Huntingburg County DUBOIS State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** hallertoothdoc@gmail.com

**Comments** I am commenting on 312IAC9-3-3, d (4). Specifically rifles as legal firearms for hunting deer. Using rifles in Indiana is entirely unnecessary and adds a measure of danger to the public because of its range of travel. I have deer hunted in Indiana since the 1960's and hunting with shotgun and muzzle loader rifles has been quite adequate. Most deer I have killed over the years, and that is several, have been within 50 or less yards or less. I can assure you that is the circumstance for most people who bag a deer with a firearm. Why would a rifle make that shot easier? Totally not necessary, and I am opposed to adopting this rule change.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:39:25 PM

**Commenter Name** Brett Meunier

**City** Bainbridge County PUTNAM State IN

**E-Mail Address** meunier\_brett\_a@network.elanco.com

**Comments** I am totally against the high powered rifle season for IN. I have not yet met anyone that is a true sportsman that thinks it is a good idea. The only ones that I know that are for it should not be allowed to hunt. I have been deer hunting for 20 years and have never needed a high powered rifle to harvest a deer. The terrain in Indiana is not suitable and I believe that there will be people hurt do to the fact of the range that these weapons offer and many homes will be hit also. I hope this is something that the people can vote on. Where I live my family will be at risk and I know many others that will be also. If it does pass I hope that they are at least going to make a round limitation so people won't be rapid firing. Brett Meunier

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:40:10 PM

**Commenter Name** Dale Griffy

**City** Lewis County VIGO State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** griffy10@frontier.com

**Comments** I totally agree with the suggested changes. I sincerely hope that the changes will be approved. Many of the surrounding states already allow them, and their hunter accident rate is less than ours. Please notify me if the changes are approved. Thank You , Dale A Griff

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:41:58 PM

**Commenter Name** Ryan Rodgers

**City** princeton County GIBSON State In

**E-Mail Address** ryansrodgers@gmail.com

**Comments** I think the plan to introduce high powered rifles for gun season is a big mistake. We have to much urban development to have people being able to shoot 500 to 600 yards. This is not out west or even KY were they have less development. I don't want to be in woods with my children with people being able to shoot that range. Big mistake of this gets approved!

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:44:01 PM

**Commenter Name** Kyle Morrow

**City** Hebron County PORTER State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** kmorrow63@gmail.com

**Comments** My comments are in regards to allowing the use of high power rifles. The vast majority of Indiana is flat and bullet from a high power rifle could travel very far. This in return could do a lot accidental damage to the residents and to property. I personally hunt in Pulaski County and I can easily see the hunters and buildings on the bordering properties. High powered rifles could easily reach out that far and do damage.

I personally pride myself in shot placement for a clean and quick kill, I only take shots with confidence. I see and hear all the time about un-ethical hunters slinging lead at deer and several hundred yards only to wound them. I can only imagine what will be attempted with a high power rifle.

For the safety of the people, fellow hunters and ethical hunting of wild game I strongly urge you to look past this rule and not to pass it.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:44:17 PM

**Commenter Name** Dave Bersel

**City** Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** burcee@msn.com

**Comments** I am for the high powered rifle rule change during deer season. Other states allow them, and no increase in hunter accidents has been reported. Plus, my muzzle loader will shoot just as far as many of the proposed calibers. Should probably be bolt action guns with less than 5 rounds.

I would feel safer knowing people are hunting with a scoped rifle, rather than a shotgun with rifled slugs & open sights. Thank you for the chance to give my opinion.

Dave Bersel

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:52:57 PM

**Commenter Name** Glenn Hoskins

**City** Bedford County **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** spanky@rsionline.org

**Comments** concerning deer hunting rule changes, I think the changes are fine however im a little concern about magazine capacity with an AR platform.

Thanks

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:56:18 PM

**Commenter Name** Joni Jones

**City** Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** JJonesGirl@aol.com

**Comments** I am voicing my opposition to the DNR rule changes during deer season to allow rifles larger than .243 caliber and also the use of firearms in the urban deer zones. I am a hunter but I do not feel safe in the field knowing that high caliber rifles will be out there also!!

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 12:58:39 PM

**Commenter Name** Keith Benzenbauer

**City** Anderson **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** keitheb77@comcast.net

**Comments** There should be a 25 or less limit on bluegill. Between the ice fishing and the summer greedy people the bluegill fishing in Indiana is terrible. Summitt Lake is a good example, they took them out by the hundreds and now there is nothing left. Thanks for hearing me out. Keith

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:01:27 PM

**Commenter Name** Todd Jay Boyle

**City** McCordsville **County** HANCOCK **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** tboyle@fcrwd.com

**Comments** I strongly support and encourage: 312 IAC 9-4-11, 312 IAC 9-5-6, and of course 312 IAC 9-7-10 / 312 IAC 9-7-14. Having worked for the DNR in the biology department (Columbia City, District 3), I can tell you that the last two rule changes I listed must be passed. The biggest complaint why I surveyed lakes in NE Indiana was that there was no limit on panfish. I heard it almost daily, some people being very adamant and aggressive about there not being a limit. I had to agree, as I would often see people leave lakes with over 100 bluegills. These two rules would go a long way in fixing that situation.

In regards to urban deer zones, I believe your special antlerless season has been effective, but destructive everywhere else (most of Indiana). Having been a deer hunter for decades, I now see fewer and fewer does than I ever have and I fear the population is being ruined. Old does are now nonexistent. Furthermore, these does come into heat earlier than most, and get the large bucks (3.5+ years) moving. People I know who hunt, including myself, less very large bucks partly due to this reason. I believe the special antlerless season is ruining the herd and it's inhumane (does are pregnant by this season). I think it should be reduced to only urban zones.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:03:31 PM

**Commenter Name** Timothy St Clair

**City** South Bend **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** stclaircourtreporting@gmail.com

**Comments** In regards to the proposed rifle caliber change for deer hunting. As perhaps a safety measure, could the language be added to the rule "from elevated stands/blinds only". Perhaps shooting a high powered rifle from an elevated stand may decrease the ultimate distance an errant shot may travel.

In regards to the sunfish limit. As a compromise measure could the limit be instituted during the peak spawning periods.

Thank you for your efforts in providing the citizenry of Indiana the opportunities we have on the water, and in the field. Tim St. Clair

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:03:37 PM**

**Commenter Name** Julie Dillon

**City** North Manchester **County** WABASH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jbever92@gmail.com

**Comments** I do NOT believe that high powered rifles should be allowed in Indiana. There are too many people that hit the woods every year that have no idea what they are doing and or have no concern for safety. My family has personally experienced stray bullets

flying through our hunting ground from a neighboring shooting range and it's NOT a comforting feeling. We all need to consider how far bullets from these type of firearms can travel if they don't hit their intended target. I feel that this area already has enough

issues with ignorant people roaming the woods with loaded firearms without high powered rifles in the picture. Also, RARELY does a hunter in Indiana NEED to take a 300, 400, 500+ yard shot on an animal. This isn't Iowa, this isn't Montana. We are all farm

fields surrounded by woods. There are too many people that are willing to shoot at literally anything that moves. And legalizing this kind of gun will just make it that much easier for people to take unsafe, unnecessary shots. As a hunter myself, the wife of a

hunter, the sister and daughter of a hunter, I know that I would no longer feel comfortable sending off any family member of mine to the woods knowing that some of our idiot neighbors are carrying a rifle that could travel 400 yards.

I personally don't think that the deer population is nearly as important as the safety of our hunters, but legalizing these weapons will destroy our already struggling population. We see enough wounded deer as it is. People kill deer that have already been shot

enough as it is. Disease and local predators help to control our population enough in this area as of right now. In later years that may change and more deer may need to be taken each hunting season.

High powered rifles are not the answer, to anything.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:05:47 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jessica Ross

**City** Lizton **County** HENDRICKS **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jsillery22@gmail.com

**Comments** I believe that the high power rifle proposal is a terrible idea. If someone shoots and misses, there is a real threat of stock/pets/cars/homes getting hit by these free flying bullets. There are many people that will go hunting just to be able to kill something with a high powered gun, not for the right reasons, and people will be idiots. I know for one, I probably will stay in for most of the season and not go hunting like I usually do. It's not that I don't trust myself of people close to me, it's all those idiots 1-2 miles (or sometimes even farther) away that I don't know and aren't gun safe.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:09:32 PM**

**Commenter Name** Robert M Garringer

**City** Ridgeville **County** JAY **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** mgarringer@moserengineering.com

**Comments** I am adamantly opposed to using hi powered rifles for the harvesting of deer. I fear the dangers the longer ranges the rifle projectile will travel. While there have been data stating the "slug" will sometimes "ricochet" and apt to travel farther, that is upon a ricochet situation which is not the usual results and only happens occasionally. I guarantee you the rifle round will travel farther every shot with the exception of the occasional ricochet. I also fear the use of weekend warriors with large capacity clip "pitching" numerous hi powered rounds from their AR type Ima Idiot Rifle at a deer as it is running across fields and woods. I am a deer hunter. Hunting deer means and takes much more than pulling your truck off the road, pulling out your hip, and blasting a deer standing 400yds from you. I would refer that would be deer shooting not hunting and degrade the sport itself. How would you feel if you are sitting in your tree stand in the woods with deer in the field between you and the nugget getting out of his truck on the road with a hi powered AR type rifle with a 9 shot clip. No thanks!

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:14:37 PM**

**Commenter Name** Danny Williams

**City** North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** heathwll2@yahoo.com

**Comments** I do support the new rule proposal to allow rifle calibers .243 or larger with soft tip bullets.

I personally have already used 30-06, .308, .35 Remington and 7mm-08 calibers in Indiana with an Encore pistol platform over the last several years. It seems strange that I can use these calibers in this pistol platform, but if I put a rifle stock on the same gun it then becomes illegal to hunt with. Aside from these commercial cartridges, I do know other people who are using wildcat loads by shortening the brass length of a .35 Remington, or a 45/70 to 1.8"; also, I know that many people are presently hunting deer with calibers such as the .358 Hoosier and .358 WSSM Wildcats. These calibers have all already been proven safe in the Indiana deer woods.

Commercial rifle calibers are being used safely and effectively in our neighboring states, they have not created any problems, or added safety concerns. This rule proposal isn't allowing anything new; it would simply allow already existing cartridges to be used in any platform, rather than pistols only, and would simplify Indiana's complex firearm laws. I would personally love a chance to use commercial calibers in a rifle platform, not because they are more effective, but because I can shoot a rifle with more precision than a pistol, and commercial caliber ammo is much easier to find, and cheaper to buy, than wildcat ammo. Indiana deer are managed through the antlerless quota system; therefore, allowing rifles should have zero negative effect on the Indiana deer herd. In fact, I think that allowing rifles could be beneficial to the Indiana deer heard by reducing the number of deer which are shot and not recovered. Legalizing commercial calibers will give much better options to people who may be recoil sensitive such as women, and children. For example a .243, or a 7mm-08 are very low recoil rounds that would give much better performance on deer than a .357 magnum, or a .410 shotgun which, again, should lead to fewer wounded/crippled deer that are not recovered. I can think of many reasons why allowing these calibers does make sense, but I can't think of any factually based reasons to continue to restrict them.

Thank you,  
 Danny M. Williams

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:16:28 PM**

**Commenter Name** Laura Freeze  
**City** Garrett County DEKALB State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** LKFreeze14@aol.com

**Comments** As a hunter and someone who lives in rural DeKalb County I am opposed to opening the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. I think you should go the other way and make the rules stricter so these people finding loop holes to use high powered rifles can't. I understand there is a time and place for using rifles for deer hunting. If I was going to Wyoming or another western state with sparse populations a high powered rifle makes sense. What does not make sense is having people take 400 yard shots in a state as populated as Indiana. The woods are full, it is hard to find much acreage to hunt, and people hunt on as little as an acre of woods or field. The use of rifles will lead to more issues of people shooting deer on property they do not have permission to shoot on. Not every hunter is responsible and it is scary to think they will be out there around my home with rifles that will come through my walls. I understand that a good muzzle loader or shot gun will shoot 100-200 yards accurately and I just don't feel that if you can't fill your tags with that you should be hunting! My family has never had a problem filling tags and we hardly ever shoot more than 100 yards, usually closer to 50. That is good hunting. My dad owned a check in station for 10 years in the 80's and early 90's and I have heard stories from hunters that would make you not want to be near the same woods as them, do you really want to put a rifle in these guys hands? I am convinced that if you allow more high powered rifles to be used there will be more accidental shooting, more problems of people shooting off land they are not suppose to, and more headaches for your conservation officers. I am begging you not to legalize high powered rifles! Drive around DeKalb County and see how far apart rural houses are and how far tree stands are from houses and roads. We think things are good as they are right now, except the loop hole people creating the high dollar legal rifles, make it stricter not easier. Adding high powered rifles to Indiana will also take the sportsmanship out of hunting, it will just be killing. Around us the deer populations are down as it is, you send out a bunch of people with high powered rifles and the population will be hurt worst and there will be more want and waste. Keeping hunting in Indiana not killing. We eat deer and fish year around instead of buying meat in the store and it is an important part of our family life, we are the responsible, law abiding hunters and feel that high powered rifles in Indiana would be a huge mistake on the law makers part. Maybe some of the law makers on this decision need to come hunting and they could see why using high powered rifles is just not needed in Indiana. Thanks for taking this families opinton in to consideration! The Freeze and Fischer Families

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:17:47 PM**

**Commenter Name** Kevin cripe  
**City** delphi County CARROLL State In  
**E-Mail Address** kbcripe61@gmail.com

**Comments** no hpr in indiana ! Most counties have small wood lots rifles can travel to far!! Unsafe

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:18:07 PM**

**Commenter Name** Steve Mauk  
**City** Charlestown County CLARK State IndianA  
**E-Mail Address** stevemauk@twc.com

**Comments** I for one Hope that the use of high powered rifles for taking deer In Indiana does not Pass. I really see no need for their use, as we now have plenty of Opportunity by other means, and think the use of rifles will only create unsafe conditions for hunting in the state,because there will be people that will not use common sense while in the field! If you do pass this rule, use great discretion in your decision, and allow no larger than 30-30. Thanks

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 1:19:38 PM**

**Commenter Name** Robert Duke  
**City** Noblesville County HAMILTON State In  
**E-Mail Address** robertduke@att.net

**Comments** I feel that a change to Indiana's caliber restrictions of deer hunting is long overdue. With the advances in slug technology over the past 20 years, shotgun slugs can no longer be considered a more limited range or "safer" projectile than those of center fire high power rifles. Especially when you take into account the studies commissioned by the state of Pennsylvania and performed by the US Army on the distance traveled by ricocheting projectiles. They have shown that a 385 grain shotgun slug can travel up to one thousand feet farther than a 150 grain bullet from a 30-06 when fired at the same angle after contact with the ground. It has also never made sense that high power center fire rifles can be used to take several other species of game within the state, but are not allowed for deer unless you have depredation tags for your farm. I think the time has come to allow high power center fire rifles for the entirety of the deer firearms season.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:19:59 PM

**Commenter Name** Ron Straw

**City** Poseyville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ron.straw@insightbb.com

**Comments** I like the idea of the new rifle changes.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:20:10 PM

**Commenter Name** Robert M. Gruener

**City** Fillmore **County** PUTNAM **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** bgruener@iendeavor.com

**Comments** I am against the use of high powered rifle for use against Deer. I have been hunting with Bow and shotgun for many years and have spent many hours in the woods along with several hours practicing to be a better shot and hunter. Since Indiana made it legal for the use of Crossbow I have seen more and more idiots in the woods. Its bad enough with this along with the people from the city that do not take the time to practice. The easier you make it the more will try it, but they will not put the effort into obtaining a skill for hunting or respect for the game they are hunting, they just want to "try to kill" an animal. The most dangerous day in my life is when I went to a state park on opening morning shotgun season. What I saw that morning made it where I will not even drive by a state park during this season again, and most plates on the vehicles were from the city. Hunting needs to be kept as a sport where a person must spent time practicing not only to shoot "1 shot 1 kill Method" but also spent the time practicing how to hunt with respect to other hunters and their safety and the game in which they are hunting. Take note of the accidents from last year then compare them to this year now that crossbows have made it easier, then hold them until after the first year of use with high powered rifles. I will bet the numbers are and will increase. I have also seen what a rifle bullet does when it "Goes through" a deer, Upstate new York 1970 a deer shot 6 times with 30 06. Same effect a high velocity slug does. simple ballistics say a slow moving object will have the knock down power, fast moving rips through and the animal may run a while before it even realizes it has been shot.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:22:08 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael Saalfrank

**City** Fremont **County** STEUBEN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** mike@g2arc.com

**Comments** The use of high powered rifles is not safe, I see no reason to allow high powered rifles in the landscape we have in IN.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:22:53 PM

**Commenter Name** Joel Cosby

**City** Santa Claus **County** SPENCER **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** joelcosby@me.com

**Comments** We should be allowed to hunt with "high-powered" rifles. All hunters have been required to take appropriate education and with this education - hunters understand safely hunting and discharging firearms.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:26:10 PM

**Commenter Name** Acy W. Wartsbaugh II

**City** Griffith **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** acy121778@yahoo.com

**Comments** I see no reason to limit the legal rifles, for deer hunting, to those that are less accurate for a shorter distance than those that are commonly used in many other states. There should be no thought process to using a more powerful, more accurate, rifle round to legally take a deer. If a hunter uses the same safety practices that he/she should be using for the currently legal deer hunting ammunition, there is no safety issue with a round having the potential to travel a longer range more accurately. I have personally taken deer in other states, with one shot, with .30 caliber ammunition of several types, (.300 WBY Mag, 7.62 x 54R, .30-06, etc.) and none of the deer I have harvested took a single step after the rifle went off. If the argument is weather the .30 caliber diameter is humane, there is no doubt in my mind that it is capable of a clean/humane kill. I have avoided deer season in the state, in which I grew up in and still reside, for many years until recently because of the non-sense laws against hunting with a precision rifle cartridge. I believe it is more humane to shoot a deer and eat it, than to shoot at a deer track it for a while and then loose it, while it is running away in fear and mental anguish, not to mention suffering from a gun shot wound which didn't kill it immediately.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:35:42 PM

**Commenter Name** Don Raab

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Ind

**E-Mail Address** l8386c@aol.com



**Comments** I am in favor of the proposed changes permitting the use of rifles during deer season. I am also in favor of the bag limit on panfish, maybe I missed it but did it incl Crappie?. I also support the use or legal carry of a handgun during the youth season.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:43:19 PM

**Commenter Name** Erik Herrberg

**City** Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** eherrberg@phdinc.com

**Comments** Please do not allow High Powered rifles for Deer Hunting, ever !

There are to many idiots hunting that will not even think about the travel distance of the bullet after it blows through the deer. I predict cars, houses, people, etc. , being in the cross fire of these non educated weekend hunters. It is down right scary.

Also, Huntington County does not have near as many deer for this.

It will eradicate our deer population.

I hunt most days of every season and the deer population keeps decreasing every year.

High Power guns and bating will destroy this wonderful gift of being able to hunt deer and will destroy the future of deer hunting for our children to experience!

Please consider very carefully.

Also, I truly believe that our antlerless doe bag limits need to be brought down once again for Huntington County Indiana.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and giving me the opportunity to speak.

Erik Herrberg

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:53:52 PM

**Commenter Name** don mulligan

**City** sheridan **County** BOONE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** outdoorswithdon@aol.com

**Comments** Stop slaughtering deer and deer hunting in Indiana with your continuous liberalization of the hunting rules. You are either crooked or idiots or just anti-hunters if you allow high-powered rifles to hunt deer. No other state with similar terrain and population allows them for deer for a reason. Use some common sense and represent hunters for once in your tenure on the Commission.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:54:46 PM

**Commenter Name** Justin Ousley

**City** Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** justingousley@hotmail.com

**Comments** I move to deny the new amendment in section 5: IAC 9-3-3 section D. I strongly disapprove of this amendment and find this to be a pointless addition to deer hunting. The deer population is not nearly as high as many false accusations have given, in fact, I would go as far to say that the deer population is beginning to become scarce! The number of does that are able to be harvested in each county are outrageous as well. Help Indiana hunters to conserve and preserve a hunting heritage!

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 1:59:06 PM

**Commenter Name** Patrick Bruner

**City** Loogootee **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** N/A

**E-Mail Address** patbruner77@yahoo.com

**Comments** I support this proposed rule change with emphasis on the increase in rifle calibers allowed to deer hunt. I have three children and smaller caliber rifles are easier and lighter for them to handle. The smaller caliber rifles are also allow more accurate shots for the younger hunters. These caliber rifles are less intimidating to a young hunter and increase the odds of an accurate shot rather than the possibility of wounding the animal.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 2:01:12 PM

**Commenter Name** thomas r hodnett

**City** columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** tom.hodnett225@gmail.com

**Comments** I support all the rule changes on all wildlife management.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 2:04:23 PM

**Commenter Name** Darren Adams

**City** terre haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** drockz71@icloud.com

**Comments** I agree with all the proposed rule changes, Muzzleloaders can shoot up to 500yards so the proposed rifle cartridges wouldn't be any less safe, and I don't believe that hunters should be limited to certain weapons to harvest a deer with and I don't think it would harm the states deer herd population

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:07:22 PM**

**Commenter Name** Doug Myers

**City** Carmel IN **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** doug.myers@earthwavetech.com

**Comments** I am 32 years old and have been hunting since I was 8 and have harvested deer almost every year. Hunters from Indiana have been harvesting record numbers of deer and I do NOT believe that they need to have "high powered" rifles to do so. If they were allowed to use them I would not feel as safe hunting any more and would be more hesitant to take a child along. Please do not allow this bill to pass.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:07:44 PM**

**Commenter Name** Allen Osborn

**City** Frankfort **County** CLINTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** allencosborn@gmail.com

**Comments** I fully support the expansion of rifle calibers for firearms hunting in Indiana.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:15:09 PM**

**Commenter Name** Mary Williams

**City** North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dmwilliams75@frontier.net

**Comments** I do support the new rule proposal to allow rifle calibers .243 or larger with soft tip bullets. Commercial calibers such as 30-06, .308, .35 Remington, 7mm-08, 30-30 etc are presently being used for deer hunting in Indiana (in pistol platforms), and have been for the past several years. It seems strange that these calibers are legal deer rounds in this pistol platform, but by simply adding a butt stock on the same gun it becomes illegal. Aside from these commercial cartridges, under present Indiana law, people are also using wildcat loads (in rifles) by shortening the brass length of a .35 Remington, or a 45/70 to 1.8"; also, some are using calibers such as the .358 Hoosier and .358 WSSM, Wildcats, which mirror the performance of a .308 or 30-06. These calibers are all already being used, and have been proven safe in the Indiana deer woods. This rule proposal isn't allowing anything new; it would simply allow already legal cartridges to be used in any platform, rather than in pistol platforms only, and would simplify Indiana's complex firearm laws by allowing commercial calibers, rather than only wildcat calibers.

Commercial rifle calibers are being used safely and effectively in our neighboring states, they have not created any problems, or added safety concerns.

I would personally love a chance to use commercial calibers in a rifle platform because I can shoot a rifle with more precision than a pistol, and commercial caliber ammo is much easier to find, and cheaper to buy, than wildcat ammo. Indiana deer are managed through the antlerless quota system; therefore, allowing rifles should have zero negative effect on the Indiana deer herd. In fact, I think that allowing rifles could be beneficial to the Indiana deer heard by reducing the number of deer that are shot and not recovered.

Legalizing commercial calibers will give much better options to people who may be recoil sensitive such as women, and children. For example a .243, or a 7mm-08 are very low recoil rounds that would give much better performance on deer than a .357 magnum, or a .410 shotgun which, again, should lead to fewer wounded/crippled deer that are not recovered.

I can think of many reasons why allowing these calibers does make sense, but I can't think of any factually based reasons to continue to restrict them.

Thank you,

Mary E. Williams

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:17:32 PM**

**Commenter Name** Ken Roe

**City** Macy **County** FULTON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** gap@rtcol.com

**Comments** Boats may not anchor within this zone. This seems to be of no value if the area section includes buoys. To anchor a boat does seem to hurt anything.

If you are going to make protect the area from bedding or species damage.

Buoys would be ok. You may want them to be a different COLOR.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:27:12 PM**

**Commenter Name** robert l. cox

**City** thortown **County** BOONE **State** in

**E-Mail Address** robert.cox@carrier.utc.com

**Comments** i see no problem with the rule change making rifles such as the 30-30 and 45-70 legal to hunt deer in the state of indiana. some of the SABOT slugs for shotguns such as the HORNADY SST already have very good long range accuracy. so the down range shooting will only increase by 100-150 yards. that sounds like alot at first, but when taking shots at distances of even 150 yards most hunters are using a scope. for 300 yard shots every hunter will have to use a scope. on the other hand, not every hunter takes even 100 yard shots. most of our states hunters are in the woods where more than a 75 yard shot is rare.

as a general rule, our states deer hunters are safe, ethical, law abiding citizens who are continuing on their family traditions. i hunted deer as a child with my grandfather and father. I have taken my sons into the woods, and i can only hope that the

same life lessons about firearm safety, ethical hunting, shot placement, tracking, and retrieving, taught me by my elders which were passed to them by their elders, will be passed on to my grandchildren and great grandchildren. to those of us with long standing tradition and respect for hunting game, a simple increase in the length of cartridge will not be a detriment to hunting, it will bring it closer to home. my great grandfather killed many deer with his HENRY 30-30. i would feel honored to be able to legally hunt with the same rifle he was so successful with.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:28:17 PM**

**Commenter Name** clay lane

**City** Fort Branch **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** clayton.lane25@gmail.com

**Comments** do not allow rifles in indiana. It is NOT SAFE, nor do we need anymore deer killed or wounded. Leave the hunting laws alone!!!!!!

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:30:35 PM**

**Commenter Name** Craig Versteeg

**City** Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** craigasteeg@yahoo.com

**Comments** As a hunter, I strongly disagree with the use of rifles during the deer hunting seasons. There is not enough wide open spaces for the amount of hunters in the field. I would seriously consider not hunting during the regular gun season if this rule is to pass.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:32:53 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jeffrey H Western

**City** ANGOLA **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jhw304@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am opposed to the adoption of rule 312 IAC 9-7-14: placing a bag limit on blue gill. My rule of thumb is taking home no more than I feel like cleaning. However there are times where I would catch 25-30 panfish in the morning and another 25-30 in the evening. This is the exception not the rule, but would like to still be able to do this and have a fish fry with enough fresh fish to feed my family and a few friends that evening. I generally catch about the same number of fish each season since I live on the lake. Bag limits are tough if not impossible to enforce and all this will do is force some to run to shore to empty their 25 gill before heading back out. Not really a complaint just explaining the misguided logic on the rule. The abundance in Bluegill, Redear, sunfish, will not change by enforcing a bag limit. It will just cause more confusion and complication to a sport that has enough rules and regulations already. I would also oppose the increased size limit on walleye from 14 to 16 inches on the northern lakes. I fish walleye on Crooked lake mostly in the Spring and a 14 inch walleye is more than sufficient in size to classify as a "keeper" adding a random 2 inch increase is not going to serve any purpose or make any impact to the health of the fish stock in the lake. All it will do is make a tough day of walleye fishing almost impossible to catch anything to eat. I can fish walleye constant for a week and be lucky to catch one or two fish on this lake that are 14 inches. 16 inch fish are not the rule they are the exception. I am not fishing to catch the trophy fish when it comes to walleye, I would just like to catch a couple to fry and eat. Changing the rule is not going to make them grow any larger any faster. There really is not that much fishing pressure to warrant the changes. Most of the issues with the fish population is due to boat traffic, pwc's and weed control and farm run off.. Not sure why anyone would think that trying to reduce the fishing pressure would have much impact. Just misguided logic. The money and time trying to enforce these new rules would be better spent on fish stocking/run off control prevention and enforcement of the rules already in place.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:33:04 PM**

**Commenter Name** Nick Thompson

**City** Warren (Huntington County) **County** WELLS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Thomp381@purdue.edu

**Comments** I am a college student and Purdue University and both an avid archery and firearm hunter. I am the next generation to conserve and protect our wildlife in wells county, the state, and the nation. I have many concerns regarding the proposed change to allow high powered rifles to be used to hunt whitetail deer in Indiana. (listed in no relevant order)

- This law will reduce the deer population across the state. The county I hunt in is now listed as 1/2 of the A counties. Many counties I know show a drop in deer population for many reasons wounded deer, EHD, and CWD.

- High powered rifles will encourage unethical shots. This will lead to more wounded deer that are not tagged and unable to survive the winter.

- Safety concerns - living in a highly populated state where misses can lead to human injuries or property damage.

**Suggestions**

1. No high powered rifles
2. A shortened gun season (with or without high powered rifles)
3. Limit magazine capacity (ie 3)
4. Move opening day later in the rut to allow bow hunters a greater chance.

After opening day of gun season it has been rare to even see a deer due to so many shots as well as hunting pressure.

For the future of whitetail hunting for myself and generations to come I feel it is necessary to take action to our gun laws and

not allow the use of high powered rifles.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 2:34:17 PM

**Commenter Name** Tim Honeycutt

**City** Springville **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** truefriend1964@gmail.com

**Comments** I am up set that the Indiana DNR is wanting to let rifle hunting for deer in a state that is high in population and know that a rifle caliber of 243 and higher will carry much farther than the hunting rounds we use now.

A 460 smith and wesson out of a 24 inch barrel travel at 2800 FPS

why in Gods name would you want to allow people to use any thing more powerful than that?????

People will use SKS and AR 10 with a hell fire switch that will make the gun almost a fully auto and that person can 30 round clip or bigger and start firing like a wild man at a deer running through the woods . You are looking at a lot of danger from people using such weapons. The deer population is low now so it shows that the weapons that we use now are doing a efficient job now controlling our deer herd. I say NO to this upgrading to a rifle of 243 and higher.

I for one will start a petition to stop this act.

Please look all the dangers that will come from this law.

Thank you Tim Honeycutt

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 2:47:25 PM

**Commenter Name** Daniel L. Jones

**City** Carbon **County** PARKE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** djones4@isp.in.gov

**Comments** I am opposed to the change allowing high powered rifles. I have been a lifelong deer hunter in Indiana and I am 50 years old. My family runs a deer processing operation and we speak to a great number of hunters who are friends or business associates and not one that I have spoken to supports this effort to legalize high powered rifles for deer hunting. My concerns are for public safety and for the sustainment of the deer herd. I believe that allowing these rifles, we will see a reduction of the herd, decreased number of mature bucks and a greater number of wounded, unretrieved deer. No one questions the quality of our buck herd since the one buck rule was put in place so why do we want to reverse those positive effects of it. I feel that many hunters will not know the limits of effectiveness and trajectory of high powered rifles and often will not be able to identify a mature buck at long ranges that will be a possibility using a long range weapon. In reading a early proposal, one justification to go to high powered rifles was the long range of a muzzle loader. I hunt with a muzzle loader and I am a high powered rifle shooter and USMC veteran. There is no comparison between the two weapons. If you look at states like pennsylvania, you always see dead or wounded hunters because of high powered rifles and poor hunter judgment. Indiana is too flat in many parts of the state and I think disaster will follow a successful rule change to allow the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 2:49:03 PM

**Commenter Name** Dillon Craig

**City** Pierceton **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** craiddj01@students.ipfw.edu

**Comments** In regards to section 5. 312 IAC 9-3-3. The concept of allowing a .243 is completely ridiculous. This opens the doors for many obvious negative reasons. Like we dont already have horrible deer numbers in northern indiana. The use of a high powered rifle is one dangerous due to how many idiot gun hunters there are and secondly indiana's landscape is not ideal at all for that type of deer caliber. You will also see an increase in poaching due to how lazy some hunters are and of coarse they will think this is an awesome idea. Which in no way is that true. Honestly I dont even understand why or what idiot proposed this idea. However, maybe you guys should focus on the deer numbers and actual healthiness of our deer herds. Its a joke.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 2:51:44 PM

**Commenter Name** Caleb Carpenter

**City** Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** caleb\_87\_1999@yahoo.com

**Comments** DANGER: We do not need to legalize high-powered rifles for deer in Indiana. I have taken 6 deer in the last 4 seasons, and that is being selective. Not one shot was longer than 30 yards. Why do I need a firearm accurate to 700 yards for a deer that is 50 feet in front of me? You will have inexperienced hunters out there taking flat-ground hail mary shots at running deer 400 yards away. This is DANGEROUS. There is absolutely no need for legalizing these rifles. A bad shot is a bad shot, and just as many deer will be lost to them from such long distance poorly placed shots by inexperienced hunters. 90% of the people I'm talking to or hearing from agree with me, so how is this regulation change even a possibility? Who put the "idea on the table"? Yes, these rifles are allowed for coyote hunting, but there are not 200,000 people walking around or in tree stands with loaded firearms on "opening morning" of coyote season. This is a recipe for disaster. How many hunters hunt in the woods, where a 50 yard shot is pushing it? Even LESS need for "high-powered rifle". We DO NOT have the space. At LEAST consider limiting these rifles to areas of Indiana where even rural houses aren't just 200-400 yards apart. I have already heard nightmare stories of slugs hitting trees that hunters are in, a .308 round would continue through and strike the hunter! Everyone will tell you, the herd is thinning. I've noticed it myself. So why increase the kill, or even present that opportunity? We need to be more focused on limiting harvests, even lower antlerless quotas per county, and a shorter deer season. I personally would support a couple seasons of a "no-doe" gun season. I did not see a single doe this year on our Wabash County farm, yet had the opportunity to harvest numerous bucks, albeit young ones. Please reconsider your

regulation changes in regards to high-powered rifles. I am speaking for the tens of thousands who will not voice their opinions.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:52:11 PM**

**Commenter Name** David A. Pritchett

**City** Zionsville **County** BOONE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** oxfordreb52@gmail.com

**Comments** I agree with the reduction of the size of the shell to shoot at deer so that rifles can be used. A .3030 or .3006 would be beneficial in reducing the herds in the south of the state as these deer are growing at an alarming rate and destroying crops of farmers at an alarming rate. But I would also like to see enacted with this the requirement of safety training in hunting put on by the DNR as mandatory to get your license if you are less than 55 years old. This is the way it is done in Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, and Arkansas. It works well and gives the hunter more of an idea of knowing where they are hunting and the range of the shell they are using. Some common sense things like where not to shoot in the direction of houses, other hunters, across land they aren't allowed to hunt on or have permission to hunt on would be a few of many things that people should know, but don't think about when they are hunting. This is just a suggestion.

I am all for hunting with a smaller caliber bullet. The herds will be reduced so that no disease infects the herd and the deer are healthy with plenty of food available during the winter. Right now I have witnessed the deer population going up, but the size of the deer going down as food is not available for the winter for the large herds in south Indiana. With a little thinning out and keeping the herds manageable, everything will get back into line and farmers will not lose as much money as they do today.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:55:36 PM**

**Commenter Name** Josh Wogoman

**City** Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jwogoman@purdue.edu

**Comments** Allowing the use for high power rifles is unnecessary and will only hurt the deer herd. People are going to think they can shoot farther then the should and that will result in more injured deer. People have had great success while hunting with the current weapons allowed and there is no need to change that.

Possible solutions.

- no high power
- shorten firearm season
- move the firearm season to a later date
- install a magazine capacity limit of 3

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:56:25 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jonathan Ferris

**City** Milton **County** WAYNE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ferrisj@purdue.edu

**Comments** I would like to go on record as supporting the rule change package, specifically the provision which would allow the use of most centerfire rifles. I think the time has come for this change. If the goal is to humanely harvest deer, then to me it makes sense that we have the option of using rifles. Having had the opportunity for years to harvest deer with rifles as part of our farm's depredation permits, I have seen first-hand how much more precise and effective they are than slug guns or muzzleloaders. I know this change will not be popular with some, but I appreciate the DNR's willingness to take this bold step and implement a change that I believe is positive for Indiana deer hunters.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:59:01 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jeremy Neff

**City** Sullivan **County** SULLIVAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jeremyneff\_78@yahoo.com

**Comments** My comments on the matter of High Powered rifles, is they should be legal this next year. As long as they are Bolt Action, or lever action. Semi auto should not be aloud. I also believe the state needs to reclaim area's back by these gas companies and allow hunting area's to be reopened back up. Due to people buying up everything and posting it. Leaving hunters no where to hunt. And the Lifetime licenses ought to be brought back to discussion as well. The pricing before they expired was reasonable. Not giving the new generations of hunter the chance to own a lifetime license is wrong.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 2:59:59 PM**

**Commenter Name** bill garner

**City** guilford **County** DEARBORN **State** indiana

**Organization (optional)** na

**E-Mail Address** bgarner@zoomtown.com

**Comments** Excellent rule change but... I feel all hunters using rifle should have to qualify at state range. X

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 3:00:39 PM**

**Commenter Name** Tim Conboy

**City** Nashville **County** BROWN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Tconboy@mac.com

**Comments** I am very much in favor of using high powered rifles for deer hunting. A humane kill requires accurate bullet placement which a rifle afford much better than does a shotgun. Had I had a rifle I would have had a eater bullet placement and been able to recover my buck this year. However being hit back slightly the wonded animal got away.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:02:01 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael Seidler  
**City** Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** firelt930@gmail.com  
**Comments** I have no problem with the use of "high powered rifles" in the harvesting of Whitetail deer. I do think however, that there should be a capacity limit placed on the rifles to be used. I personally don't want to be in the woods when someone close by opens up with 20/30 rounds of .308 or 30-06, trying to "flock shoot" a herd of does. Bolt action rifles have a capacity of 3-5 depending on caliber, and they force slower, better aimed shots. Even lever guns hold 5-7 but again force the slower and hopefully better shooting. Not to say there aren't responsible hunters out there, but we all know that the 10% does exist especially on opening weekend.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:02:03 PM

**Commenter Name** Jason McKinney  
**City** Gosport **County** OWEN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** wildnationtaxidermy@gmail.com  
**Comments** I was wanting to say for the proposed rule change which will allow large caliber rifles, I would like to say allow 30-30 and .243. We really dont need deer being shot at and wounded by long range wal-mart hunters. The big rifles are useless unless your in more open country like northern Indiana. Thanks for hearing my two-sense.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:05:37 PM

**Commenter Name** Rebecca Marcus  
**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** rebmarcus@comcast.net  
**Comments** Please stop hunting the Ruffed Grouse. Biodiversity is important.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:15:50 PM

**Commenter Name** Adam Viel  
**City** Brookville **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** ajviel@msn.com  
**Comments** I approve on this rule.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:18:33 PM

**Commenter Name** Tom Zimmer  
**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** in  
**E-Mail Address** pasqua248@aol.com  
**Comments** Extending the law to include any rifle over a .243 is a scary thought as an avid hunter. It will put way too much power and distance (and not accuracy) capabilities in the general public's hands. Cheap rifles of these calibers can be picked up for a couple hundred dollars and people will have a false sense of becoming a crack shot out to 500 yards... There are some areas where a rifle may be useful to people and more effective than their shotgun or muzzleloader. Our state already has a variety of rifles for them to choose from. It is restricted in an effective way that allows for those who want to pursue the rifle option that they can but just under certain parameters all directed at safety. Leave the law alone and keep the "Kmart" hunter from getting his hands on something that lethal and dangerous. The law allows for those serious hunters who want to use a rifle the option to do so. I keep hearing the argument that there are some current "legal" cartridges that are similar with others. That's fine but those willing to go the extra expense to do so are the more avid, skilled, and safety conscious hunters. The average hunter who only opening weekend isn't the guy I want to be anywhere near (miles near) when they start thinking they can shoot any deer in sight. I would hate to see the law passed and then read article after article next fall when such a safe hunting state we have now becomes one where opening day there are lives lost due to this becoming legal. This is why I appose allowing any additional rifles that are already allowed. People can argue reasons why they should be legal from many angles but the proof will show next fall if this passes. Too many states with rifles deal with fatalities as a norm for opening day and I'd hate to see our state become one of them. Please vote for safety and keep the rules as they are now and don't change them in regards to allowing more rifles. Thank you for your time, A VERY TRULY CONCERNED FATHER/SON/INCREDIBLY AVID HUNTER!  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:19:43 PM

**Commenter Name** Robert D. Harrison  
**City** Milltown **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** mountain\_bob@hotmail.com  
**Comments** I think that this rules change should be adopted.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:23:03 PM

**Commenter Name** william carpenter  
**City** Decatur **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** arenec@centurylink.net  
**Comments** my concerns involve the use of highpower rifles. we live in a very flat terrainand am worried about the

backstop. I think you need to be more specific on what calibers are allowed. any rifle that can shoot with enough power to take deer sized game at 200 yds is not needed in Indiana. I,m concerned about someone using magnum cal. on farm ground with nothing to stop the projectile.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:24:03 PM

**Commenter Name** jason shelton

**City** marion **County** GRANT **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** Frozenlake24@yahoo.com

**Comments** I think accidents will increase and liability of dnr propertys will increase with the increase of high power rounds Indiana does not have the room for hunters to spread out and hunt safely with these calibers or limit it to private property the strip fields on dnr property is not big enough

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:26:01 PM

**Commenter Name** Jeff Davies

**City** Milan **County** OHIO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Jpfab1@gmail.com

**Comments** I am opposed to allowing rifles for deer hunting as it is currently written with no cartridge restriction. As is one could deer hunt on a half acer with a 50 BMG capable of shooting miles. Magazine capacities and amount of land the hunter has to hunt on should be a factor as well. I believe as written there are major safety concerns.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:30:01 PM

**Commenter Name** Eli Eccles

**City** Ellettsville **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** goosepondmonster@gmail.com

**Comments** I am opposed to increasing the cartridge diameter to include calibers of .243 and higher. I feel that this will put folks in danger with the distance that these calibers can travel. We have enough hunting accidents as it is and we don't need any more.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:30:14 PM

**Commenter Name** Hershel Smith

**City** Quincy **County** Out of State **State** MI

**E-Mail Address** smithd@ccscards.org

**Comments** I am a Lifetime licesne holder and grew up in Steuben county. I have hunted in Stueben county practically my whole life. I strongly disagree wwith the idea of allowing high powered rifles in Indiana for gun season. First a muzzleloader is not a high powered rifle, and the only powder that should be used is black powder or a black powder substitute (such as pyrodex, Triple 7, etc). A muzzleloader shot past 250-300 yards is not risky. Secondly to compare northern Indiana counties to Kentucky and Pennsylvania is absurd. These states are mountainous, and have much larger forrested areas. In stueben county, our terrain is made up of small woodlots and much of the hunting is on field edges and fence rows. And very crowded. Many of the neighboring counties are the same way. I lease ground, but the next properties to the east, you can see hunter orange one after another around the next field. You will have accidents and people shooting across roads, and into houses, because there are alot of idiots out there that shoot without thinking about whats past their target. I would bet that the number of hunters per square mile in many Indiana counties (atleast in the northern tier) far out number the hunters per square mile in Kentucky, Pennsylvania and the UP of Michigan as well. It will be a huge mistake to allow rifles such as a 30.06, 243, 300 mag, etc. to be allowed in Indiana. It is dangerous enough with shotguns and muzzleloaders that can shoot 200-300 yards. People don't even aim sometime they rip off shots with shotguns so fast there is no way with the recoil that they could get back on their target between shots. I don't want to rant, but as you can tell, I think this is a ridiculous idea and DANGEROUS! I want to feel comfortable taking my 8 year old son out hunting.

Thanks,

A very concerned lifetime Indiana hunter.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:32:23 PM

**Commenter Name** Dave Barron

**City** Merrillville **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** deerhunter46410@att.net

**Comments** I am petitioning for the following changes to the existing, or proposed, rules:

Proposal 1 312 IAC 9-3-3

Have archery equipment remain the only allowed equipment during the Urban Zone season. The existence of the Urban Zone itself has liberalized the deer harvest sufficiently, there is no need to add firearms to it.

Proposal 2

2) Have the buck taken during the Urban Zone count toward the yearly limit, as the Urban Zone begins Sept. 15th before any other season. This already allows participants more opportunity to harvest a deer.

Proposal 3

Suspend the "anterless" season in Northwest Indiana due to the reduction of the deer population caused by EHD and last

years hard winter. Actually, it should be eliminated altogether as even bucks are "anterless" in January. Since there are sufficient opportunities for hunters to harvest a doe beginning September 15th, this season is not necessary.

Proposal 4 312 IAC 9-3-4 (d)(2)(a)

Do not increase the bag limit from 4 to 10. Even 4 deer is plenty for any hunter. Allowing a hunter to harvest up to 10 deer is far too liberal.

I believe my proposals are reasonable and in keeping with deer management best practices. Just as you would increase the harvest when the deer populations are high, you would also decrease the harvest when the populations are low. I have hunted deer in Northwest Indiana for more than 20 years and this year I have seen the least amount of deer than I ever have. This observation is based on year long observations as I supplemental feed from January to March and I utilize trail cameras all year. Other hunters who I have spoken with who hunt NW Indiana have also noticed the reduction in the deer population this year

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 3:36:23 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jeff Ober

**City** Lawrenceburg **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jfober@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am opposed to the high powered rifle part of this rule change. Because I have been in Kentucky and seen countless unclaimed carcass from hunters using smaller caliber like 270-243 and not leaving substantial blood trail. And you also refer to a muzzleloader as being 500 yard capable, an ethical hunter would never take that shot with a muzzleloader. I personally think it would be a mistake and open up more problems of shooting from motor vehicles, atvs, and utvs. Thanks for reading.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 3:40:59 PM**

**Commenter Name** Andrew M. Aker

**City** Plymouth **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** andy.aker@oasisbath.com

**Comments** My name is Andy Aker. I am a born and raised 35-year old resident of Marshall County, Indiana. I consider myself part of a group of trophy deer hunters located in Northern Indiana. As a group, we manage thousands of acres of pristine and groomed whitetail habitat consisting of hundreds of Indiana's resident whitetail deer.

There are several Indiana deer hunting regulations currently prohibiting two of the three conditions needed to grow and harvest trophy whitetail deer:

1. Indiana has 32 days available for firearms and muzzle loader antlered deer hunting. This enables a much greater opportunity for an antlered deer harvest. The typical deer hunter in Indiana does not possess a self-imposed antler or age restriction when harvesting an antlered deer. The result is an overall younger buck harvest.
2. A portion of Indiana's firearms season coincides with the whitetail breeding season. The rut typically brings down the guard of whitetail bucks. The rut coinciding with the firearms season, when most hunters are in the woods, results in hunters having more opportunity to harvest a buck. Most deer hunters in Indiana do not have a self-imposed antler or age restriction when harvesting antlered deer, resulting in an immature buck harvest in Indiana.
3. Indiana allows only one buck to be harvested by a hunter within a season. It is necessary to harvest less than desirable older age class bucks from a particular deer herd to enable the "trophy" genetics to flourish. By limiting the antlered deer harvest for each trophy hunter to one antlered deer per season, there are more deer exhibiting poor antler characteristics that live to breed another season.

Legalizing .243 or larger diameter bullet size and a casing of 1 1/16" or larger (high powered rifles) will further directly affect the ability to grow and harvest trophy whitetail bucks. This will be accomplished by extending the effective range of the average Indiana whitetail deer hunter to 300 yards and beyond. This proposal becoming effective will increase the antlered deer harvest in Indiana. The result of an increased buck harvest will drive the average age of antlered deer harvested in Indiana downward and further decrease the ability to grow and harvest trophy whitetail deer in Indiana.

Another result of this proposal in effect will further distance the targets from the hunters. By increasing the effective range of the weapons available, one result can be poor identification of the targeted game. Hunters with poor optics and patience will be less likely to identify a target prior to executing the shot. More young deer exhibiting exceptional genetic makeup and button bucks will be harvested by mistake.

High powered rifles will be discharged more often, closer to and within our rural communities. The rounds available in the proposal are some of the same rounds our United States military uses against our worst enemies. The distance, velocity and energy some of these rounds produce are much greater than most of what is available under today's regulations en mass. These rounds will be discharged in great numbers on a more regular basis.

I know why this proposal is on the table. The previous regulation of minimum .357 bullet diameter and a case of 1 1/16" to 1.8" previously passed, exhibit much greater ballistics than anticipated. The wildcat rounds spawned from the current regulation passing, possess similar performance to some of the proposed traditional high powered rifle rounds.



There is a difference. Under the current regulation (minimum .357 bullet diameter and a case of 1 1/16" to 1.8"), the traditional Indiana whitetail deer hunter will not make the investment to hunt with this technology. Thus, the volume of hunters using this weapon will continue to be low in numbers. The volume of hunters that will use high powered rifles under the new proposal will increase dramatically. Most hunters either own or have access to traditional high powered rifles.

Let's ask ourselves some questions:

1. Why do other states in the Midwest prohibit the use of high powered rifles?
2. Do we want these types of weapons discharged on a more regular basis in our backyards and by the hunter on our property line?
3. Is it important to harvest more bucks?
4. What are the long term goals for Indiana's deer herd?
5. Does Indiana desire to become a more coveted destination for trophy deer hunters?
6. How much license revenue would be generated if Indiana became a trophy whitetail destination for non-residents?
7. What if we proposed .35 REM, .30-30, .45-70 and similar short range calibers as a middle ground?

I would be glad to assist with anything ensuring that Indiana's trophy whitetail potential does not further degrade. I would also love to support any regulation improving the ability to grow more and bigger trophy Indiana whitetail deer.

I am available by e-mail or by phone.

Andy Aker  
(574) 780-0342

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 3:44:10 PM**

**Commenter Name** Robert Koehler

**City** Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** rgkoehler@msn.com

**Comments** I support the approval of the changes and hope they take effect in the coming hunting season

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 3:44:26 PM**

**Commenter Name** TJ Unger

**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tjunger@hotmail.com

**Comments** As a lifelong whitetail hunter, wildlife conservationist, and educated biologist, I am passionate about the management of our most valuable of natural resources.

Over the last 25 years of hunting I have observed a momentous change to Indiana's whitetail population. In most recent years, population reduction is staggeringly apparent. In a recent report by the IN DNR, it was noted that the states deer population is on a decline due to several contributing factors – "Some are by design and some are by external forces." - DNR deer management biologist Chad Stewart.

These factors continue to surge with each season, however, we (as a state) have majority control over very few of these factors. Those factors include hunting season dates, weapon restrictions and hunter education- all of which are affected by the proposed high-powered rifle rule change.

Every year, Indiana's firearm season coincides with peak rut activity - the pinnacle of deer activity during the year. According to Indiana statistics (<http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/files/fw-2013deerseasonsummary.pdf>) the preponderance of Indiana hunters are gun hunters: ~75% of IN deer hunters use a firearm. It is fact that the use of a firearm significantly increases hunter success rates. Couple these factors and the result is an aggressive population reduction. Whether by design or default, Indiana's current firearm laws are quickly decreasing the state's whitetail population. With populations trending downward, it is time for the state to initiate efforts toward sustainable population conservation and abolish these aggressive and outdated reduction efforts.

The proposed allowance of high-powered rifles will undoubtedly be magnify this issue exponentially.

The proposed rule also brings to light the need for improved 'Hunter Education' requirements. Under this proposed rule, Indiana firearm hunters will be sharing the woods with a weapon that poses a never before experienced set of risks, sans any required formal education for safe handling. Currently, the State only requires hunters that are between the ages of 12 to 28 years complete a hunter education course, while the average age of hunter in the US is 46 years old. With the number of new hunters on the rise together with current education regulations, these figures will continue to be offset, resulting in the continued incursion of unqualified, unlawful sportsmen and women taking to the field with deadly weapon in tow. I liken this issue to the state's driving requirements. A vehicle is considered by some a deadly 'weapon', one that the driver is responsible for while understanding he/she is putting themselves and others at risk. Because of this, the state requires a new driver (old or young) to successfully complete appropriate training. The course is designed to educate drivers on safety, governing laws and best practices to minimize accidents.

I am vehemently opposed to the rule change. I encourage the Indiana NRC to review the laws and regulations of our neighboring states whose conservation and management programs have proven both successful and profitable – Kansas,

Iowa and Ohio. Please review weapon restrictions, education requirements and hunting season dates and compare to those of Indiana.

Should the state promulgate the rule change to allow high-powered rifles, I strongly advise the NRC to improve hunter education requirements to encompass all Indiana hunters. Furthermore, I urge the NRC/DNR to adjust the deer hunting seasons to focus less on deer reduction and hunter success and focus on sustainable conservation of our deer populations.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:46:29 PM

**Commenter Name** Jamie Small  
**City** Jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** smalljamie66@gmail.com  
**Comments** To who it may concern:

It is my opinion introducing any extra high powered rifle season or allowing it during the regular season is a bad idea. I feel the safety of other hunters will be compromised. I also feel our deer population can be controlled by other means; lengthen the season or increase the bag limit.

Thanks for your time!  
 Respectfully,  
 Jamie Small

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:49:02 PM

**Commenter Name** Warren Tatter  
**City** Rochester **County** FULTON **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** flc@rtcol.com  
**Comments** I disagree with IAC 9-3-4, hunting with rifles .243 and larger.  
 Too congested hunting lands for Joe 6 pack to hunt responsibly.  
 Too dangerous.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:49:56 PM

**Commenter Name** kris geyer  
**City** huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** in  
**E-Mail Address** hooknshoot@att.net  
**Comments** I support the use of centerfire rifles for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 3:58:44 PM

**Commenter Name** Bill Brewer  
**City** Covington **County** FOUNTAIN **State** In  
**E-Mail Address** brewerbill69@gmail.com  
**Comments** I have been advocating the use of the 30-30 for years now and still want to see that gun legal. Not real sure I want to see guy's with 30-06's and 7mm mags shooting at deer half a mile away across open fields. But if that's what it takes to make the 30-30 legal I will live with it.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:06:19 PM

**Commenter Name** Joshua Manning  
**City** Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** manning126@gmail.com  
**Comments** I think the proposal for the use of high powered rifles is great. We should keep with the changing times as far as hunting goes. I vote YES for high power rifles!!!

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:07:48 PM

**Commenter Name** Tim Henderson  
**City** seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** TIMBOHENDERSON@GMAIL.COM  
**Comments** For the rule to change firearm season to include high powered rifles, I am for it and see no danger inherent. Today's shotguns, muzzleloaders, and legal rifles shoot out to distance's of 300 yards or better. Somebody that would make it dangerous shouldn't be hunting anyway.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:15:54 PM

**Commenter Name** zach Westfall  
**City** Vincennes **County** KNOX **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** zwestfall18@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I am in favor of the change in rifle calibers. That being said I do believe their should be a maximum caliber allowed. With out I believe there would some people out there using some calibers just to see what they will do. My opinion is based on the fact for other species they are already being used my self and using 22-250 and 243 to take coyotes. Also might be a good idea to exclude some of the more urban counties.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:19:44 PM

**Commenter Name** zach Westfall

**City Vincennes County KNOX State IN**  
**E-Mail Address** zwestfall18@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I am in favor of the change in rifle calibers. That being said I do believe there should be a maximum caliber allowed. With out I believe there would some people out there using some calibers just to see what they will do. My opinion is based on the fact for other species they are already being used my self and using 22-250 and 243 to take coyotes. Also might be a good idea to exclude some of the more urban counties.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:20:02 PM

**Commenter Name** Jeremy McIntire  
**City Arcadia County HAMILTON State Indiana**  
**E-Mail Address** indylon80@yahoo.com  
**Comments** In regards to the proposed changes on the legal equipment for deer hunting I am for the proposed change. I believe that as more hunters acquire their hunter safety certifications the risk of accidental injury is less. I also feel that with the progression in quality optics over the past decade a hunter is far more likely to hit his intended target thus eliminating the need for some of the firearms restrictions.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:20:10 PM

**Commenter Name** Bradley D. Knox  
**City Kendallville County NOBLE State Indiana**  
**E-Mail Address** bradleyknox@att.net  
**Comments** I DO NOT support the reduction of the minimum size requirement for Rifle cartridges. This is an unnecessary change that will only put more people in danger of being struck by one of these bullets. The deer population can be effectively managed through increased/decreased bag limits and other methods. I hope it doesn't require one bullet going through a distant window and injuring someone to wake the DNR up to the danger that this type of change can represent. It is not worth the risk. Our state does not share the same topography as the flat western states in which these rifles are used. A change is completely unnecessary and dangerous.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:20:32 PM

**Commenter Name** Bob Jones  
**City Camby County MORGAN State Indiana**  
**E-Mail Address** bjones@starrecruiting.com  
**Comments** I support the proposal "Biennial Rule Amendment Package".  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:25:12 PM

**Commenter Name** Chad warner  
**City winamac County PULASKI State in**  
**E-Mail Address** cwarner171@gmail.com  
**Comments** legalize high power rifles  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:28:23 PM

**Commenter Name** Nathaniel frick  
**City Ferdinand County DUBOIS State Indiana**  
**E-Mail Address** frick\_316@hotmail.com  
**Comments** No to deer rifles .243 or above  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:33:38 PM

**Commenter Name** Brent Ressett  
**City Converse County GRANT State IN**  
**E-Mail Address** jbr52k9@yahoo.com  
**Comments** Rifle allowed south of US 40 , shotgun north of US 40. Due to landscape.  
Thank You!  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:37:31 PM

**Commenter Name** rusty hill  
**City francisco County GIBSON State indiana**  
**E-Mail Address** russell.hill@aes.com  
**Comments** the quail season bag limits need lowered in the southern part of the state. 4 per day is plenty. 8 birds would almost wipe out a covey and the quail need all the help they can get to survive.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 4:42:07 PM

**Commenter Name** kendall martin  
**City rochester County FULTON State IN**  
**E-Mail Address** kendallmartin30@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I am a farmer who enjoys the outdoors very much and I'm very disappointed with this proposal ! I have caught hunters in my fence rows shooting out into my fields trying to get deer .... they never came into my field but they have no problem slinging lead out into my fields ! Now we're gonna reward these wanna-be hunters with the ability to shoot even farther out in my field ? I don't have the ability to monitor my fields every night and I believe it will further encourage long range shots , and unless your a skilled shooter now we're looking at more wounded deer ! And PLEASE consider shortening

gun season PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE ? Our deer herd has been shredded and we are gonna encourage more ??? Our gun season is smack dab in the rut ! Makes NO sense ! I LOVE hunting and I want to feel SAFE while I'm out there ! I don't trust my neighbors with shotguns and now I'm gonna have to content with high power rifles ? PLEASE consider us landowners opinions ! I want to be here for my kids and wife . All it takes is ONE misstep by a careless neighbor we have tragedy ..... I would LOVE to talk face to face with someone who is going to be making decision on this matter ? And again PLEASE consider landowners opinion ? We live on the land and care deeply about it ! We're not just some weekend warriors out for a kill thrill ! And get rid of the late doe season some bucks have shed their antlers and to many hunters don't care ! If its brown its down ....

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:08:42 PM**

**Commenter Name** Brent Stringer

**City** Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bstringer@ilsurveying.com

**Comments** I am commenting to say that I am against the proposed rule changes on 312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec. 3. (c) (6) and 312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec. 3. (d) (4). These changes will allow the use of a rifle of .243 caliber or larger with no maximum cartridge length, otherwise known to most as a "high powered rifle", and abbreviated to "HPR" for the remainder of this comment. I have looked at surrounding states and the pros/cons associated with the approval to allowing HPR's as a legal firearm to harvest a deer. The general consensus is that states that allow HPR's reduce the quality and quantity of the deer herd in general which in return discourages revenue associated with hunting (a.k.a. lower license sales and less hunting equipment sold in stores). I would love for this state to look to manage the deer population for quality and quantity and stop trying to eradicate it to please insurance companies and farmers. However, my main concern with allowing HPR's as a legal firearm for deer is safety. Most huntable tracts of ground are less than a quarter mile wide (typical 40 acre square) and are surrounded by residential parcels. Also, firearm season is a traditional day where most hunters pack into whatever woods they have permission to hunt, thus increasing the risk for someone to be hit by a stray bullet from long range fired by another hunter that may not even know there is anyone else close to him, safety orange on or not. We do not need these type of rule changes in Indiana. Please return this state to a quality state to hunt deer and please do not follow in the footsteps of our neighboring states.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:14:28 PM**

**Commenter Name** Tom Bowman

**City** Pendleton **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** thomas.bowman@xylem-inc.com

**Comments** I would be in favor of all of the proposed rule changes.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:19:29 PM**

**Commenter Name** Terry Fitz

**City** she **County** SHELBY **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** tp-81@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** I am totally against the caliber change on rifles for deer hunting.....not even necessary....way too dangerous..to every county in this state.....

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:22:10 PM**

**Commenter Name** dennis hudson

**City** tell city **County** PERRY **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** hudson\_m1589@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** were to close to have high power rifles to hunt deer in southern IN.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:23:34 PM**

**Commenter Name** Mark Wallace

**City** New Ross **County** MONTGOMERY **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** mwallace@pittsborofire.org

**Comments** I like the proposal of hunting deer with .243 and larger. The higher the musky length limit the better.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:47:52 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jason hill

**City** Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Carpetman69@msn.com

**Comments** Im for allowing centerfire rifles .243 and larger, no max length restriction. Hunters ed should be required

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 5:57:03 PM**

**Commenter Name** William Slike

**City** Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** bslikeiii@gmail.com

**Comments** I think the revisions are well planned. While I am an avid deer hunter, the firearms changes are good. While not my "favorite" season, I welcome the opportunity to use more widely accepted calibers, such as my .243 Winchester Rifle. I purchased this for potential use in other states for deer (where legal) and for coyote / varmint hunting here.

I am more interested in the urban-reduction zone revisions. Living on the perimeter of the existing urban zone - expanding

these options offer a great benefit both to areas where the reduction occurs, and in opportunities for archers to put venison in their freezer.

I highly approve of the change to allow legal carry of one's EDC sidearm while escorting youth hunters. This seems to be a glaring oversight; the ability to protect the upcoming generation does not diminish or change in the woods from any other time you are there.

I hope to see success with these rules changes.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 6:07:57 PM

**Commenter Name** TERRY STUTZMAN

**City** WARSAW **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** STUTZMAN@MEDIACOMBB.NET

**Comments** The current laws concerning authorized firearms usage for deer are sufficient to get the job done in the State of Indiana. We do not need any further reaching rifles to endanger the hunters in the field, which are many these days.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 6:10:37 PM

**Commenter Name** Aram Batchelor

**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** aram\_batchelor@hotmail.com

**Comments** I feel that allowing high powered rifles is a very bad decision.. This is a huge safety issue. My family and I Love to hunt and I feel there will be more accidents bc of the small acreages that people have to hunt. I also feel that if this is allowed, there will be a lot of poaching. This is not a good idea. thank you

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 6:14:53 PM

**Commenter Name** R. Michael Custis

**City** Greencastle **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mcustis50@gmail.com

**Comments** Allowing high power rifles is a SERIOUS mistake. More private land will be closed to hunters because of owner safety concerns. I do not want to hunt in any area that a hunter might be using a rifle that the projectile can reach further then the hunters line of sight. I live next to a pay to hunt area and high power rifles would basically cause me to stay out of my own woods during deer season. Show some restraint and don't allow high powered rifles for deer hunting next year or ever.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 6:15:39 PM

**Commenter Name** Romie Hersman

**City** Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** romielhjr@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** Please approve this set of changes!

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 6:19:23 PM

**Commenter Name** Dustin Dellinger

**City** Columbia City **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dustindellinger11@gmail.com

**Comments** I personally think here in Indiana we do not need to lower bullet diameter size to .243. The average hunter hunts on smaller parcels of wooded lots. Since most of Indiana is farm ground. By allowing calibers such as .243, .308, and 30-06. It would increase the danger of the sport to us hunters and pedestrians. I know everybody who has hunted here can relate to the opening day of gun season. You always wait to here the five shot barrage. You always here it and normally more than once. So instead of a shot gun it will be a cheap russian rifle. We currently offer a good selection of choices. I would only like to see 45-70 allowed. I also am in disagreement with the use of crossbows. now everyone is out hunting with one because they are to lazy to learn the real way. I understand if they are disabled they should be excused. But since adding crossbow i feel its an easy way out to kill not to hunt learn and watch deer. But furthermore all would take away the most important thing. That is the beauty of Indiana and our natural wildlife.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 6:20:25 PM

**Commenter Name** Douglas Fauber

**City** Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** INDIANA

**Organization (optional)** NONE

**E-Mail Address** dougefau@abcs.com

**Comments** 555/223 Are good enough for the military, They should be allowed for deer

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 6:22:46 PM

**Commenter Name** greg mow

**City** rochester **County** FULTON **State** in

**E-Mail Address** gregmow@comcast.net

**Comments** hello im comenting on bring in rifle. we do not need to open up this can of worms. Indiana is to open and flat. we have enough road hunters now. you open this up and ya might aswell take down all fences. people will shoot where ever when ever they want. I don't feel like taking a bullet from afar.

<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 6:22:59 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Josh Leicht  <b>City</b> Kokomo <b>County</b> HOWARD <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> causam@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> It's about time that standard rifles are allowed for deer hunting.</p>
<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 6:26:36 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Patrick McCombs  <b>City</b> Farmersburg <b>County</b> SULLIVAN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Pmii1975@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I like the proposed rule change for high powered rifles. I believe it will help improve shot accuracy and help to allow game to be taken more humanely.</p>
<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 6:36:40 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> terry speer  <b>City</b> carthage <b>County</b> RUSH <b>State</b> indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> tjspeer@frontier.com  <b>Comments</b> I am all for changing the rule to allow high powered rifles. but i think it should still have limitations on size. i feel calibers of 30-30, 308, 35rem, 444, 45-70, and similar calibers should be allowed. i feel if you make an unlimited caliber size available some people will be using way to big a gun to hunt deer. i fear to many unqualified people will be out there with calibers they don't really know the power of it. i would love to use a caliber larger than a 460s&amp;w in a rifle. i feel the brush gun calibers would be great for Indiana. i own a 300rum rifle and that is way to much power for deer but some people would possibly use something that big.</p>
<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 6:39:03 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Stacey D Allen  <b>City</b> Connersville <b>County</b> FAYETTE <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> gatorgrip47331@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> Hi, I would like to comment on the high powered rifle possibility in regards to deer hunting. Although I think it would be neat to use these guns, I think the cons out weigh the pros. Mainly, I see two or three major cons. Con number one, Obviously our flat land layout coupled with the distance these bullets can potentially travel, there could be more accidents and possibly fatalities. Con number two, There could be more deer fatalities resulting from pot shots and the distance/accuracy ratio of these calibers, thus dwindling our deer population. Thank you, Stacey Allen</p>
<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 6:46:34 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Thomas Jones  <b>City</b> Elkhart <b>County</b> ELKHART <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> nattybumpo79@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I have significant reservations regarding the use of high-powered rifles for deer hunting, particularly in the northern part of the state where the terrain is relatively flat, and fairly highly populated. I realize muzzle loading rifles shoot at long distances, but extra care is usually taken as only one shot will be fired. In my experience of more than 35 deer seasons here, the observation has been that black powder hunters are more careful and conscientious than those in the regular firearms season. Sure, I'd love to be able to use my high-powered rifles during deer season, but I'm not sure it's the best thing to do. I appreciate this opportunity for input.</p>
<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 7:04:11 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> John Cinkoske  <b>City</b> Lagro <b>County</b> WABASH <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> johncpu89@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> 312 IAC 9-7-10 Sunfish  Authority: IC 14-22-2-6  Affected: IC 14-22  Sec. 10. An individual may take or possess not more than twenty-five (25) redear of any combination of sunfish per day. (Natural Resources Commission; 312 IAC 9-7-10; filed May 12, 1997, 10:00 a.m.: 20 IR 2719; readopted filed Jul 28, 2003, 12:00 p.m.: 27 IR 286; readopted filed Nov 24, 2008, 11:08 a.m.: 20081210-IR-312080672RFA; filed Jul 6, 2010, 1:55 p.m.: 20100804-IR-312090616FRA; readopted filed May 20, 2014, 9:43 a.m.: 20140618-IR-312140017RFA)</p>
<p>I like the proposed bag limit on Bluegill. They are getting harder and harder to find, yet I know some individuals who catch hundreds of them when they are on the beds with NO remorse. This practice needs to be outlawed, because it makes it more difficult for 'casual' anglers to get enough fish for a meal.</p>
<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 7:05:24 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Gunnar Cale  <b>City</b> decatur <b>County</b> ADAMS <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> gunnarc12@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> Absolutely no high powers. Shorten gun season while you're at it.</p>

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:07:22 PM**

**Commenter Name** John Kraus

**City** Elkhart **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jetwelder1@aol.com

**Comments** I vote for the increased rifle power for deer hunting... It's long over due Indiana!!

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:08:53 PM**

**Commenter Name** Steven Bowers

**City** Franklin **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** scbowers1@comcast.net

**Comments** I highly support the change to allow different rifle calibers to be used for deer hunting. Do we need to include such as the larger magnum calibers? I believe that the proven deer calibers such as 30-30, 32special, 243, 257 Roberts, 300 savage, 35 Remington are all adequate to humanely take a deer in this state and none of them exceed the ballistics of the wildcat cartridges already being used. Thank You. GASWZ

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:10:14 PM**

**Commenter Name** Mark Klug

**City** Monroe **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** monroejetone@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am strongly for the rule change to let .243 high power and up rifles to be used for deer hunting. I would like to see a magazine restrictions on rifles to 5 shots or less, Indiana has a safe hunting record thus far.

high power rifles would bring more interest to hunting which in turn would generate more license sales and money for the DNR. I currently deer hunt from October 1 till Christmas time and I have hunted more than 20 years. this year the deer population is down in my opinion. i think DNR should be looking at county quotas. Again yes please allow high power rifles for deer hunting. keeping safety in mind look at magazine restrictions. I don't agree with legalizing some of the big bore rifles because of no magazine restrictions, currently it is legal to hunt deer with a 450 bushmaster which is currently sold everywhere in Indiana with a 20 round magazine.

Good sportsman of Indiana know this is extreme overkill and we as sportsman wonder what the DNR is thinking because you have already legalized the 450 bushmaster but not regular hunting rifles.

I hope that someone reads this and sees how good sportsman here in Indiana are wonder WHAT the DNR is doing by legalizing a killing machine like the 450 bushmaster, but not legalizing standard hunting rifles.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:12:24 PM**

**Commenter Name** Ed Clendenning

**City** Frankfort **County** CLINTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** edclendenning@att.net

**Comments** The area I hunt in is to open for the use of 243 caliber and above.

You will put a lot of hunters in danger of be shot by accident.

I have houses with in 300 yards of the stands I hunt from and other hunters with in 500 yards.

Why would we need to hunt with rifles of this caliber in a State like Indiana.

Who ever is after this is only thinking about their own wants.

We have taken deer in Indiana with out rifles of this caliber for ever and done just fine.

42 years of hunting deer in Indiana I have never wanted to shoot deer at long range, go west if you have the need.

I pray that GOD will give you the wisdom to stop this I only see trouble.

Thank you for a place to give my thoughts.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:13:16 PM**

**Commenter Name** Donnie Perry

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** webpressdoctor@att.net

**Comments** Hello All,

I own a 200 acre farm with approximately .9 of a mile that joins Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge on the northeast end and

practice strict Q.D.M. I am an avid archery hunter and do enjoy any time spent outdoors. I also enjoy the shooting sports.

I'm now 52 years old and have hunted the farm since I was old enough to walk it with my father. Over many years I have

unfortunately witnessed many reckless hunters in Jefferson Proving Grounds A.K.A. Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge, with

that said let me make it perfectly clear that it is not the firearm that is reckless. If its a safety concern by not having a high

powered rifle season I would encourage the DNR to lift restrictions on cartridge power. My only concern is the dates of ALL

firearms deer hunting season. It seems that here in our state, especially this year, our firearms season is always during the

peak of the rut. Is this by design? Bucks are very active and chasing ( running ) doe this time of year. Many states I hunt

reduce firearms seasons this time of the year to reduce ill advised shots by inexperienced hunters at running deer. I would

estimate that less than 5% of gun hunters are qualified to shoot at a running deer. I have over 25 years of recorded data on

deer activity in southeastern Indiana and find this peak time of the breeding occurs 5 days before and after the November

full moon. Good luck with your decision on the new rifle season. Please contact me anytime, I'm always happy to share

opinions and facts. Thanks, Donnie

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 7:26:41 PM**

**Commenter Name** Nelson A. Langlois

**City Wheatland County KNOX State Indiana**

**E-Mail Address** NALanglois1954@hotmail.com

**Comments** To Whom it May Concern / Dear Sir ,

Concerning the proposed Rule change to Rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 , Section (d) ; Subsection (A) : " Fire a bullet of two hundred forty-three thousandths ( .243 ) of an inch diameter or larger. "

May I say I am Very much in favor of this rule change , as I am quiet sure you will find a lot of Hoosier Sportsmen will be !

This will also be benefical in Deer reduction = control and perhaps Most importantly in the evaluation of this proposed Rule change ; is the economical benefit such a change will bring about !

Economical benefits will be seen in the growth of larger caliber Rifle sales and all the accessories that would accompanying such sales : ammo , scopes , slings, Hunting apparel ,etc. This proposal would also accomodate Hunters in adjoining states who were limited or restricted by previous / present regulations ; providing a infusion of additional dollars to the I.D.N.R. coffers ; as well as various businesses state wide ( Gas stations , Hotels/Motels , etc. )

In closure , I would just like to express my appreciation for allowing me to express my Support of this measure . I am quiet sure you will receive a Over whelming Voice of Support for this proposal , as it has A lot of Sportsmen talking about it ; In Support !

Again..Thank you !

Sincerely,

Nelson A. Langlois

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:29:47 PM

**Commenter Name** Brad Bever

**City North Manchester County WABASH State Indiana**

**E-Mail Address** bbever6@gmail.com

**Comments** I only have one testimony about the legalization of high-powered rifles in Indiana. My deer woods is west of the town of Wabash, and almost exactly a mile north of Bass and Bucks - a gun and bow shop in Wabash. I hunt directly across the river from the gun range and have had several occasions of BULLETS whizzing by my stand. We have seen bullet holes in trees, and more than one person have heard the bullets. We hear Bass and Bucks shooting every time we are out, but not always do we hear the bullets flying. Again, I have Google mapped the area and it is almost exactly a MILE from my stand. Anything that can travel a MILE literally "over the river and through the woods" should never fall into the wrong hands.

with all this being said, I think it should be noted to Bass and Bucks. They need to rearrange their gun range so this does not happen. Like I said, many hunters have experienced the bullets of high-powered rifles traveling by their heads. We are forced to move, it ruins our hunt, and worst of all - it threatens our lives. This is a serious problem and with the legalization, many other hunters across the state will experience the same thing. It is a war zone.

You may be reading this and thinking I am full of it... When my friend told me he heard bullets zipping by his head, coming from the south, I thought he was full of it to. The reason I am writing this is because I have experienced it myself. Bottom Line: If a professional gun shop cannot contain their range, what makes you think Joe Blow will be able to?

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:30:53 PM

**Commenter Name** Tom ducheteau

**City Cromwell County NOBLE State IN**

**E-Mail Address** tom@laketronicsinc.com

**Comments** strongly approve of changes

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:30:59 PM

**Commenter Name** Brad Bever

**City North Manchester County WABASH State Indiana**

**E-Mail Address** bbever6@gmail.com

**Comments** I only have one testimony about the legalization of high-powered rifles in Indiana. My deer woods is west of the town of Wabash, and almost exactly a mile north of Bass and Bucks - a gun and bow shop in Wabash. I hunt directly across the river from the gun range and have had several occasions of BULLETS whizzing by my stand. We have seen bullet holes in trees, and more than one person have heard the bullets. We hear Bass and Bucks shooting every time we are out, but not always do we hear the bullets flying. Again, I have Google mapped the area and it is almost exactly a MILE from my stand. Anything that can travel a MILE literally "over the river and through the woods" should never fall into the wrong hands.

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You may be reading this and thinking I am full of it... When my friend told me he heard bullets zipping by his head, coming from the south, I thought he was full of it to. The reason I am writing this is because I have experienced it myself. Bottom Line: If a professional gun shop cannot contain their range, what makes you think Joe Blow will be able to?

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:35:06 PM



**Commenter Name** Lynn Harley  
**City** Argos **County** MARSHALL **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** l.harley@mchsi.com  
**Comments** I think the bag limit of 25 panfish is a very good rule  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:35:55 PM

**Commenter Name** Stephen Brinkerhoff  
**City** Hartford **County** BLACKFORD **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** stephenbrinkerhoff@gmail.com  
**Comments** I am in favor of the definition of crossbow and the expansion of acceptable rifle calibers by eliminating maximum case length. Thank you for considering this change.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:49:09 PM

**Commenter Name** Jason Heldt  
**City** Petersburg **County** PIKE **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** heldtsguns@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I would suggest not allowing .243 calibers and larger for deer season. The current effective range of legal calibers is approximately 200 yards which is more than sufficient for responsible hunters to be successful. My concern is safety risks due to some calibers such as .308 which would carry or ricochet drastically farther potentially. Today's legal calibers, for the most part, will "reach" within a person's line of sight.....high powered rifles can and will extend much farther than what a hunter may be able to see. I am an experienced hunter and shooter and don't feel that the benefit of this proposal would out-way the potential risks involved. Please consider NOT passing this amendment to the current rule. Thank you, Jason.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:49:29 PM

**Commenter Name** Jerry Valrani  
**City** fillmore **County** PUTNAM **State** in  
**E-Mail Address** jvalor1@yahoo.com  
**Comments** As a land owner, I do allow deer hunting on my ground, however, I will NOT ALLOW any deer hunting if the proposed rule allowing centre-fire rifles is passed. I do not believe we hunters suffer any disadvantages by being allowed to hunt with only shotguns and handgun cartridges. I believe there is nothing to be gained by allowing rifle cartridges and something to be lost ie; lose of hunting ground by people like me who are concerned about errant long range bullets, and I am a serious target and trap/skeet shooter. Please leave the rules as they are so hunters will have more hunting land available. Respectfully submitted, Jerry Valorani  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:54:13 PM

**Commenter Name** Jack Parsons  
**City** Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** parsonsjp@bluemarble.net  
**Comments** Concerning the amendment to 312 IAC 9-3-3  
I object to removing the maximum cartridge length of 1.8 inches in rifles. This will allow use of High Powered rifles which could potentially increase the possibility of being injured by a stray bullet! The current cartridge limitation, in rifles, is more than sufficient for taking of white tail deer in Indiana, IMO, most deer in Indiana are taken at under 100 yards which does not require the use of a High Powered Rifle. The primary concern, for my objection, is for the safety of the hunters. Thank You  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 7:55:40 PM

**Commenter Name** daniel mccarthy  
**City** washington **County** DAVIESS **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** dmccarthym@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I support the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. Most states allow this anyhow and seem to do just fine. It's much to do about nothing in my opinion and it should have been allowed years ago in my opinion.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 8:05:26 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael Gibson  
**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** gibsonmc11@comcast.net  
**Comments** I disagree with the rule changes that allow a rifle that shoots a .243 cartridge and the language in the section identified by 4). I think centerfire rifle use for deer will be unsafe as described in this section.  
**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 8:07:11 PM

**Commenter Name** Jon Larimore  
**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** jnlarimore@live.com  
**Comments** Proposal 312 IAC 9-3-3: Current trends are showing a significant rise on the deer population across the state. Although there have been changes to the county bag limits, a large amount of deer and their young will result from the 2014 rut. I do believe that this proposal will be a valuable tool in controlling the deer population across the state. I do however feel that this proposal should not be without it's limits, namely bullet type and magazine capacities to allow for the most humane kill.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:09:57 PM**

**Commenter Name** Ross Mountcastle

**City** Crawfordsville **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jrmount@att.net

**Comments** I have hunted in this state for over 30yrs. I have seen the deer population explode in the ninties to nearly extinct in many regions in this state today. I wish you would take some input from actual hunters and not just rely on 2 year old data from insurance companies. Do you really believe that we need to have high powered rifles? We have enough idiots running around making bad shots with the limited ranges of shotguns without giving them something that they think can shoot 1000 yards. If this rule is changed, you know there will be some using .50cal BMG rifles just because they can. I have tried to take my kids deer hunting, but it is very frustrating when they sit out all day long just to watch squirrels and chipmunks. The Indiana DNR has mismanaged the deer herd too such an extent that we my have to import deer from Michigan again. Also, it appears that you are you getting ready to repel the lifetime licenses? The article states several times "before its repeal",

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:13:31 PM**

**Commenter Name** Mark Voss

**City** Spencer **County** OWEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mv55444@yahoo.com

**Comments** While I agree with the proposal to eliminate the previous maximum cartridge length of 1.8 inches. I do not agree with the proposal to lower the minimum caliber requirement from .357" to .243". I don't see a need for small caliber/hi power rifles, like the 243, 308, and 30-06 that have effective range out to 1200 feet. Larger bore rifles such as the 45/70 and 444 have the same effective range as currently legal shotgun slugs and muzzle loaders, and I believe them to be safer and more controllable.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:34:55 PM**

**Commenter Name** Dustin Lee Hartwell

**City** Summitville **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Hartwells4@yahoo.com

**Comments** I do not agree nor do I like the fact that we are discussing bringing rifle's into Indiana's hunting season. I do believe this would bring chaos and extreme danger to everyone including the hunter using the rifle. Farmers keep tearing out tree's, woods and fence lines to "up" their profit without replacing any new habitat. People will be trying to shoot deer 200 - 300 yards ways with a rifle without having any idea what is in that direction or line of site while trying to take an animal at that distance (becuase the big buck is more important to some rather then safety). I love to take my young son, daughter and cousins out into the woods to teach them what hunting is all about, with safety being first and foremost. I would probably stop taking my young hunters out into the woods as I would be scared of other hunters being stupid.

thank you for the chance to comment on this

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:36:57 PM**

**Commenter Name** Matt Selley

**City** Kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Mattselley@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am in favor of the use of high powered rifles for deer. Today's modern muzzleloader scare capable of similar velocities of high powered rifles. May hunters who would take a shot at a deer with a shotgun would do so at similar ranges with a rifle. Bullet travel distances are a non issue.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:49:24 PM**

**Commenter Name** paul hendren

**City** lawrenceburg **County** DEARBORN **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** paul.hendren73@gmail.com

**Comments** I think using high powered rifles is ok . you already have 358 hoosier 358wsm and so on. You also can use high powered rifles for hunting fox,coyote grondhogs ,ect.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:51:48 PM**

**Commenter Name** David Battrick

**City** Avilla **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** david.battrick@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am not in favor of having all center fire cartridges legal for deer hunting in Indiana

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:52:13 PM**

**Commenter Name** Darrell Miller

**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** N A

**E-Mail Address** millerchamp4258@aol.com

**Comments** I have been hunting deer in Indiana for 45 year and don't believe that it would be safe to hunt deer in Indiana with high power rifles. There are to many hunters hunting at the same time. The ground is to flat, there are to many houses and people living to close together to safely hunt with high power rifles. I think there is no reason

to allow any full cartridge rifles. I think the safety of the hunters and the public should be the primary concern. This is not going to be safe.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:54:56 PM**

**Commenter Name** Mike Piquene

**City** Warren **County** WELLS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mikepiquene@macallister.com

**Comments** The proposed rule change allowing the use of high powered rifles is plan and simply unsafe. The state of Michigan allows them, but only in the northern half of the state. This area has a lower population of people. The possibilities of damage to personal property becomes much higher, due to the distance some of these rounds can travel. Not to mention the mis-use of these firearms in untrained hands, the possibilities for more maimed animals becomes much higher. Hunters will be shooting a longer distances and not be proficient at these distances. I am not sure why this change was even proposed. The deer herds in my area are down to levels comparable to the early 1970's. I travel this state a lot and see the same thing across the northern half of the state, and hear the same thing from other hunters. Once again, it is my opinion this rule change dealing with the high powered rifles should not be passed in the state of Indiana

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:55:39 PM**

**Commenter Name** will fischer

**City** Laporte **County** LAPORTE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** wfischer1178@gmail.com

**Comments** Thank You For Considering To Change The Center Fire Rifle Rule. I Think It Is A Good Idea For A Few reasons.

1. Cartiages Like The .358 Hoosier, Shortened 45/70, And Inline Muzzle Loaders Are Already Reaching Out To 300~500 Yards Range.

2. It Could Help Increase The Amount Of Indiana Deer Hunters = More Money For The Wildlife Conversation. It Could Decrease The Amount Of Injured Deer With More Accurate Shots.

3. I Am Tired Of Hearing Gun Grabbers Say They Do Not Want To Take Our Hunting Rifles Just The Bad Guns, They Can Not Say We Don't Use Them For hunting Anymore.

4. I Have Been Hunting Deer For 17 Years here In Indiana the Biggest bucks Have Always Been Just Out Of My 12Ga. Range My .308 Safe Queen Would Love More Action I Don't Want To Take It Squirrel Hunting.

5. Lets Do This Indiana If Kentucky Hasn't Had Any Problerns With The Rifle Rule We Shouldn't Either. We Are Much Better Shots Then Them.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:56:53 PM**

**Commenter Name** Derek Marshall

**City** Attica **County** FOUNTAIN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** Dmarshall@attica.k12.in.us

**Comments** Vote YES

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:57:21 PM**

**Commenter Name** Abe Bear

**City** Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** abraham.bear@yahoo.com

**Comments** I support all proposed changes in this rule, especially the 25 fish a day on panfish.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:57:42 PM**

**Commenter Name** chad sluder

**City** sullinan **County** SULLIVAN **State** in

**E-Mail Address** csluder71@yahoo.com

**Comments** I dont agree with the whole state being allowed to deer hunt with a rifle. I am an avid der hunter, and have deer hunted since i was 12 years old. I primarily hunt sullivan county, where it is mostly flatter than a pancake. I am afraid of property and or other hunters getting shot or hurt by a rifle in this area. I am not apposed to rifle hunting in the southeastern counties where it is hillie such counties around the hooiser national forest. Thanks, Chad

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:58:23 PM**

**Commenter Name** Tracy Burdine

**City** South Whitley **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** btburdin@gmail.com

**Comments** We do not need high power rifles, what we need is to reduce the Antlerless limits and the seasons. The deer herd has suffered enough

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 8:59:38 PM**

**Commenter Name** Ronnie Cooper

**City** Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ronniecooper23@gmail.com

**Comments** I do not believe we need high power rifles in Indiana. We do not need people trying to shoot across fields. I would like to see muzzleloader only. It would make hunters shoot more carefully and prevent them from rapid fire when they miss. I would also like to see an antler size limit to prevent hunters from harvesting yearling bucks and allow the bucks to mature. I believe the county quotas r to high. The deer numbers are not where they use to be. Hunters are not seeing as many deer and not seeing the big bucks that the one buck rule was suppose to bring the state. I think the hunters should be apart of deer quotas. We are the ones that see what is in the field while hunting. If shotgun must stay it should be push forward or later in season and not during the rut. Archery hunters need the rut to allow a chance at a monster buck. I really hope you take all this into consideration. Thank you

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 9:04:50 PM

**Commenter Name** Richard R. Smith

**City** Craigville **County** WELLS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ricksmith3@onlyinternet.net

**Comments** In Indiana we have primarily flat terrain. I was coached that using shotguns or or pistols to hunt with was a safety issue. A rifle shooting .243 will travel well beyond safe range. Safe range being how far I can see.

Houses are being hit with slugs now. High powered rifles will go through walls when used by unethical hunters.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 9:05:37 PM

**Commenter Name** clint stafford

**City** Alexandria **County** MADISON **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** cleatus79@gmail.com

**Comments** I oppose the proposed change of the maximum cartridge length! Increasing the case length and inherantly leagalizing high powered rifles will only increase accidents across this state because of hunters making bad judgment calls on shots at deer! The weapons allowed by hunters to use right now are more than sufficient for harvesting deer at safe distances for our flat terrain!! I hope my comments help with your decision. Thank you!!

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 9:17:25 PM

**Commenter Name** Nathan Koester

**City** Wadesville **County** POSEY **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** Nathan\_koester@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am commenting on the proposed rule allowing high powered rifles. This is a very undesirable rule change that will only harm deer heards and disbenefit Indiana for several reasons.

First it is true that surrounding states allow them. But Kentucky is a much different area than Indiana. It contains much more woods and hills. It also has a mountain range in the eastern part of the state. Michigan and Pennsylvania only allow rifles in the northern part of the states. The rest is shotgun only. And furthermore Pennsylvania is not a surrounding state, so its rules are not even applicable for Indiana. The two neighboring states that are most like Indiana do not allow high powered rifles. These states of Illinois and Ohio have adequate deer harvests every year and also harvest many record book bucks every year. Indiana should follow the states it is most geographically like not states that have mountain ranges in them.

Second is safety. There are so many homes located close to where people currently hunt. A rifle that travels much further than a shotgun that allows for many follow up shots (unlike muzzle loaders that can shoot further but only allow for one shot) is very dangerous when hunters are only a few hundred yards from homes and children that will be playing in these yards. A stray bullet may not be fired at the home but yards reach on far away from just the physical house that families and children can and will be in. And bullets from high powred rifles can reach these yards. It is also very dangerous due to the proximity that hunters physically hunt next to each other. Hunters hunt everywhere. In stands in, blinds, on the ground. Stray shots can be fired in directions where hunters are located that are unknown to the shooter. Indiana is so flat that if a shot misses a target the bullet from a high power rifle can travel far enough to hit another hunter in the next fence row or woods.

Third is the detriment it will have on the deer population. Last year was a record breaking year for deer harvest even with a declining population (DNR has stated both of these). It seems with this that there is no logical reason to allow high powered rifles that will give hunters much more advantage by giving them more range on an animal who's population is on the decline. We already have more than adequate equipment if we're harvesting record numbers with a declining population. Deer will easily be picked off out of fence rows and small woods since this is what most of Indiana has for cover. With the ease of hunting that rifles will allow, the declining population of deer will continue to fall. With less deer there will be more and more hunters who stop hunting Indiana all together. We need to keep hunters interested in Indiana not drive them away which rifles will inevitably do.

Fourth is the ease of poaching that high power rifles will allow. Poachers can road hunt so much easier with high powered rifles. They can easily shoot a deer from several hundred yards off the road during deer season and not a sole will think anything of the rifle shot percussion. Also the rifle wound will not bring concern to any DNR conservation officer. Poachers can also hunt bait from hundreds of yards away. This will make it near impossible for a DNR conservation officer to find

since the bait will not be right next to the hunter. It will also allow for poachers to shoot deer off neighboring property that with current firearms would not allow. As a whole high powered rifles will allow poachers to poach easier and make it harder for DNR conservation officers to catch them.

Fifth is an argument that high powered rifles are allowed for other animals such as coyote. It is true that high powered rifles are allowed but there is not even a quarter of coyote hunters, or any other game that allows the use of high powered rifles, out in a single day as compared to the opening day of firearms season for deer. If there is less hunters out, less high power rifles are out and less likely a chance for accident unlike the opening day of deer firearm season when the woods is loaded with hunters. Furthermore coyotes are not hunted in the same manner as deer. A coyote hunter moves around and makes loud calls giving away there location unlike most deer hunters who sit in one spot for hours trying to stay hidden as possible.

With this high powered rifles will only harm deer hunting as a whole in Indiana. We are not a western state or a state with mountains or full of hills. We do not have the cover that many states have for deer. We are doing fine harvesting deer with the equipment that is already and currently legal. So I ask please do not pass this proposed law because in the end it will harm us.

Thanks for listening and your time.

Nathan Koester

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:20:57 PM**

**Commenter Name** Lynn Blaine

**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** lblaine@mchsi.com

**Comments** Gentlemen,

I see no reason not to enact this rule, regarding the rifle cartridge restrictions. With the advent of the "Indiana Rifle Rounds", 300 to 400 yard muzzle loaders, high powered pistols, and 250+ yard rifled shotguns that are currently available, it only makes sense to open up the rifle cartridge options. In fact, I think the number of wounded / lost deer will be dramatically reduced due to far better terminal ballistics involved.

Thank you for your time.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:29:00 PM**

**Commenter Name** Francis Sarrazine

**City** Woodburn **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** hsarrazine@aol.com

**Comments** I think the high powered rifle change is wrong. Our land is flat and the bullets travel too far. Many woods in our area are flanked my residential housing. In fact the woods I own in Dekalb County has a house right next to our woods. I am a resident of Allen County but I own land in Allen, Dekalb, and Stueben counties. If this went to a vote I think this would be voted down. If you allow high powered rifles it could entice rednecks to shoot from vehicles. On another note....bluegill bag limits are rediculous. It's not like there is a shortage and in fact the little ones need to be cleaned out. I don't you fish, but on our lake we have copious amounts of bluegill. Did you just get bored and decide to make up dumb rules.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:32:23 PM**

**Commenter Name** Dustin Tuttle

**City** Butler **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tuttled089@gmail.com

**Comments** NO high powered rifles should be legal to harvest deer in indiana! Our deer population is low

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:36:09 PM**

**Commenter Name** Nate Whitacre

**City** Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** nkwhitacre@hotmail.com

**Comments** Opening up the firearms season to the use of ALL rifles .243cal and larger is unsafe. Most of the state is very flat and divided into 1 mile square sections. This would mean more often than not you are far less than 1/2 mile from the nearest road with traffic or houses where people could be outside. I just dont think putting that many high powered rifles in what could be inexperienced hunter's hands is a good idea with everyone in close proximity.

**Comment Received 12/4/2014 9:37:48 PM**

**Commenter Name** Tim Carpenter

**City** Seymour **County** JACKSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** trcarp@cinergymetro.net

**Comments** I disagree with having a rifle season without any restrictions. Rifles that are single shot, bolt action, or lever action should be the only ones allowed.

There will be too many semi autos with high capacity magazines in the woods. Should be a rule that you have to hunt from an elevated stand when using a rifle, Indiana is too flat and populated for the range of these

rifles. I have spent too many days in the field listening to semi auto shot guns blazing away as a deer runs across an open field, when this happens with a high powered rifle, the threat of an accident goes way up. Some of these calibers have been allowed in handguns for a couple years does not mean that it is safe enough to allow all rifles to be allowed. Not sure why there is a push to allow rifle hunting in Indiana, but a lot of hunters I know including myself, do not believe this is in the best interest of the hunter, and is not safe in most parts of this state. I think this should be put on hold until more public discussions have been held.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 9:39:04 PM

**Commenter Name** Joe M Scheidler  
**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** Scheidjl@frontier.com

**Comments** Re: LSA Document #14-453 to amend 312 IAC 9-3-3

I am strongly opposed to legalizing the use of high powered rifles for harvesting deer in Indiana. I have enjoyed hunting deer in our state for more than 30 years and am well aware that the original law limiting legal firearms to slug guns and muzzleloading rifles was a law founded on safety as much of our state, even rural areas, is suitably populated with people, buildings and livestock. I don't see where that has changed. I furthermore see no reason for any ethical Hoosier hunter to take any shot at an animal beyond the range of 75 yards, which is well within the accurate limits of modern slug barrels and muzzle loaders. I see no reasonable justification for the proposed change as it will do nothing more than encourage some hunters, suitably equipped, to take much longer shots in open country. Current firearm restrictions provide an adequate means of managing herd size without introducing the inherent hazards associated with high caliber firearms. Thank you.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 9:44:38 PM

**Commenter Name** joel stafford  
**City** alexandria **County** MADISON **State** in  
**E-Mail Address** joelbstafford@gmail.com

**Comments** Are you people insane to even consider a high powered rifle season in Indiana is nuts. You are going to get someone killed. There is no reason we need such a law passed. To much flat land and to many houses. Please think this through again before you have a life on your hands.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 9:48:03 PM

**Commenter Name** jason gladish  
**City** princeton **County** GIBSON **State** indiana  
**E-Mail Address** jrsweet96@yahoo.com

**Comments** No rifles for deer hunting!

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:09:22 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael Falck  
**City** Wanatah **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** mikefalck@hotmail.com

**Comments** I support allowing high power rifles for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:18:26 PM

**Commenter Name** Nathan Hahaj  
**City** Elkhart **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** Nhahaj@hotmail.com

**Comments** Indiana should put a jurisdiction on high powerful rifles within the state. Southern IN would be great for it but northern Indiana is not. It is to open. When hunting on state property you know some will take a 500 yard shot at a deer and not care what's behind the deer. I would fear for my safety when hunting on state property because you know there us that one hunter that would shoot at anything.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:18:28 PM

**Commenter Name** Jake Wineinger  
**City** bloomington **County** MONROE **State** indiana  
**E-Mail Address** bluewoodshunt@yahoo.com

**Comments** it's about time we can start using rifles to hunt deer. my thoughts on this is there are some people with assault guns aka 47, sks, even machine guns , may assume they can go hunting with these and have 30 rds clips or larger and spray the woods. I believe the limit should be 5 shots.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:30:46 PM

**Commenter Name** William Reynolds  
**City** Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** WReyn47905@aol.com

**Comments** I'm against the proposed rule change allowing the use of modern centerfire (high-powered) rifles, mostly because of safety. Seeing a bullet from a 30-06 bouncing across dirt fields is pretty scary. The argument that muzzleloaders

using smokeless powder are just as good as centerfires is not true. Some of the very high end ones are good, but there's no way a common muzzleloader can shoot accurately out to 500 yards. Muzzleloader bullets' large frontal area also slows them down a lot faster than a 30 caliber boattail polymer tipped bullet. Some places in Indiana may be ok for rifles, but there are too many houses and subdivisions in most rural areas for them to be safe. There are a lot more deer hunters than coyote hunters, so I don't think that because there haven't been problems with hunters shooting coyotes with .223 and 22-250 cartridges is the same as everybody shooting at deer with 30 caliber rifles at 3000 feet per second. Thank you.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:32:14 PM

**Commenter Name** Willie Wireman

**City** wheatfield **County** JASPER **State** In

**E-Mail Address** whaa99@yahoo.com

**Comments** I strongly disapprove of the rifle rule amendment. It is not necessary and will make our gun season even more ridiculous with long range shooting!! Have you ever been out hunting on "opening day in Indiana???" WTF I have found 2 button bucks-a 40lb and a 60lb dead from gun wounds. Deer wounded that size do not run far!! Unresponsible gun hunters!!! I also found one trophy buck that had been shot in the neck with a very small diameter bullet-again did not run far!!! I found him in a bedded position right on the main trail just off a bean field. Not that you care to treat Indiana's game species as a valuable resource and manage it as one or anything!!! I'm sure as in everything in politics "our" Dnr is run by the Insurance and farmers of this great state. Indiana is the great give away State to our neighboring non-residents. Cheapest tags in the Midwest. Why aren't we a reciprocal State? Again, this comment section is lip service I'm sure!!! Oh by the way, I heard the ridiculous argument their is a muzzleloader out there that can shoot 500yds so why not all rifles. Why not just amend the rule to outlaw this muzzleloader or atleast let each county decide-maybe the rugged and hill country counties? Cause of course everyone can afford to have one of the those \$3500.00 muzzleloaders. \$300.00 rifles versus \$3500.00 muzzleloaders is a great argument!!! Where do you people come up with this stuff?

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:47:51 PM

**Commenter Name** Jim Warren

**City** Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jimandmjw@aol.com

**Comments** I think it is time for us to use rifles for deer hunting .243 or larger

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 10:53:15 PM

**Commenter Name** Carter wireman jr

**City** Columbia city **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** carterwireman@embarqmail.com

**Comments** I would like to see a high power rifle season in Indiana. We use them for other game why not deer.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:00:00 PM

**Commenter Name** Tucker Dirbas

**City** Mulberry **County** CLINTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Tckdirb@hotmail.com

**Comments** I believe that high powered rifles are unsafe for for Indiana. Indiana is too flat and too many hunters hunt close to one another. That is just asking for problems. Also, if you are going to pass a law for rifles I think you should be able to use .223. You can use them in other states that allow it so why not here? With allowing rifles to be used you are just asking for the deer herd to be wiped out. Allowing rifles to be used you will be able to shoot at much farther distances. That's not what hunting is about. It is about the fun in it and being able to shoot a deer at 400 yards takes the fun out of getting close. Indianas deer herd is already way down and that would just cause more problems.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:00:56 PM

**Commenter Name** Ryan Jackson

**City** Silver Lake **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** INDIANA

**Organization (optional)** 312U9

**E-Mail Address** ryan-8-3@hotmail.com

**Comments** I am concerned with where the state is heading in regards to all the rule changes and legalizing weapons to take deer in our state. I do not like the idea of high powered rifles being used nor did I like the idea of anything different then the standard shotgun or muzzle loaders being used. When the DNR in my area is saying we are down 30-40% on deer numbers and it will take 2-3 years to recover I'm saying we will never recover because of these ridiculous rules.. If this state really cared about management of a deer heard and not wiping it out then they would take a look at what other states are doing in regards to the number of days for firearms season. 5 weeks of gun season is ridiculous. There are a lot of good ethical hunter that I know that's worried about what their kids will get to hunt as they grow up. It's sad when I don't even wanna go to the woods and shoot a doe because we have that few of deer in an area that we use to see 15-20 deer a hunt.

When you go through with legalizing rifles cause everyone already knows it's gonna happen then maybe you should cut the gun season down to 1 week firearms 1 week muzzle loader and cut out bonus tags for awhile and no does till the last 2 days. Someone needs to makes a change before we have no deer.

**Comment Received** 12/4/2014 11:03:03 PM

**Commenter Name** Randolph Wildeman

**City** Mount Vernon **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

<p><b>E-Mail Address</b> Randywildeman@att.net</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I have been an avid deer hunter for more than 20 years in Indiana using legal bow or gun in there appropriate season. I have hunted deer in Colorado and Kentucky several times. I am concerned high-powered rifles being added to the list of legal weapons will cause an increase in less dedicated hunters to shoot farther then their capable range, increased chances of wounding game. Shooting at farther distances, not being able to see target as well and what is beyond. Please do not allow high powered rifles in our deer season. Thank you, Randy</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 11:12:36 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jeremy Shoultz</p> <p><b>City</b> Haubstadt <b>County</b> GIBSON <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> shoultz8399@sit-co.net</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I support the change for use of high powered rifles to hunt deer.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/4/2014 11:14:03 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> John Kelley</p> <p><b>City</b> Rolling Prairie <b>County</b> LAPORTE <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> jmkkelley@outlook.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I believe it is unnecessary to use high powered rifles to hunt deer in the state of Indiana. In the fifteen years I have been hunting I have had no trouble harvesting deer to feed myself and my family. I believe there is an added danger to other hunters as well as common citizens by allowing these high powered rifles to be used. As we all know these rounds travel much further at higher velocity than what is currently being used by deer hunters. Thank you for your time, John A. Kelley</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 12:50:44 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> keith m harris</p> <p><b>City</b> Evansville <b>County</b> VANDERBURGH <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> keith.harris321@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> High powered rifles in Indiana is nonsense. Why risk innocent lives of homeowners 300yards away from a hunter trying to shoot 500yards, that would normally shoot 75yards?? Is there no regards to fellow hunters or humanity anymore? High powered rifles belong in areas with open distances, not a corn field with a new subdivision 100yards behind it such as in highly populated Indiana. Hunting gets some bad publicity as it is. Why add to that with stray bullets thru homes and roadways shattering innocent lives.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 4:01:40 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Mark Fischer</p> <p><b>City</b> Crawfordsville <b>County</b> MONTGOMERY <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> henry_oreilly@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> It is a serious mistake to throw the restrictions on rifle cartridge dimensions out the window. Persons with little or no training in the use of high powered rifles will use semi auto guns and take multiple shots at running deer.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 5:08:14 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Joe W. Shoultz</p> <p><b>City</b> Newburgh <b>County</b> WARRICK <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>Organization (optional)</b> NA</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> jwshoultz@aol.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I am in favor of the high powered rifles and believe they are not anymore dangerous than other guns.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 5:40:37 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Garrett Schmaltz</p> <p><b>City</b> Dillsboro <b>County</b> DEARBORN <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> indsmokeater@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I would first like to say thank you for taking the time read my comment. I feel there needs to be a restriction on what type of rifle can be used with the new high powered rifle law if the law does pass and take effect. I would like to see a rifle limited to bolt action, lever action, pump action, or single shot. Everyone is familiar with how popular AR-15's are now these days. I am afraid if there are no stipulations on magazine capacity and that you will have hunters carrying 30 round magazines chambered in .308 and that could be bad news with some irresponsible hunters. Also I feel there needs to be a maximum caliber allowed and not just left open, whether it be .308 or larger caliber, I am just trying to prevent a tragedy with some hunter thinking it would be cool to harvest a deer with a 50 BMJ. Thank you for time with this matter.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 5:52:05 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brady Miller</p> <p><b>City</b> North Manchester <b>County</b> WABASH <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> bradymiller_32@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I am commenting on the the proposed rule to allow rifles of a .243 caliber or higher for deer hunting. This is possibly the worst idea/thought the state of Indiana has ever had. We are not like other states, our population per square mile is much larger, there are more hunters out there today than there was 10 years ago. This is a very dangerous rule proposal, I can guarantee that someone will get hurt or killed because of this rule change. We do not have the landscape to</p>



sustain high powered rifles for deer, there is too many hunters per square mile and these rifles travel much much farther than we could ever consciously harvest an animal without knowing what is on the other side of it. Please do not pass this proposed rule, it is bad for our state and I am scared to death to be in a woods with other hunters shooting high powered rifles, and I sure as heck hate to see a little kid get killed because of stray bullets from 500 yards away. Next, please lower the bag limits, we manage about 1200 acres in our area and our herd numbers are at an all time low! We havent harvested a does the past 3 years because our numbers are so low. Our state is making hunting in Indiana a lost cause, I promise you if something doesnt change then we will wipe out the deer herd completley and itll be on your shoulders, no more blaming EHD, you know what the problem is, fix it, stop rolling around in the insurance companies money and do the right thing for the people and the future of deer hunting, please and thank you for your time.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 6:16:27 AM

**Commenter Name** ron wood

**City** petersburg **County** PIKE **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** rwoodfam21@gmail.com

**Comments** the use of high powered rifles should NOT be allowed. terrain is too flat. too many idiots out there already. small communities such as mine with only woodlots and open fields will endanger every homeowner and their family. hunters have successful numbers every year with the weapons we now use. put an end to the trophy hunters agenda. they are ruining the sport.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 6:39:05 AM

**Commenter Name** Kenneth Long

**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** hipo1965@locl.net

**Comments** Please do not include high power rifles in the deer hunting season. As there will be people who will try to make 300 and 400 yard shots that are not capable of the task, they do not understand what happens to the bullet once it leaves the muzzle bullets may go thru peoples homes and injure someone. Maybe you could allow 45-70 in a heavier bullet that will drop faster and not travel as far.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 6:45:00 AM

**Commenter Name** Richard L. Stanley

**City** Anderson **County** MADISON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** Clwhmr@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** I'd like to see a limitation on the amount of ammo a magazine can hold in a semi-auto, no more than 5 rounds. Respectfully

Richard L. Stanley

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 6:57:24 AM

**Commenter Name** Robert I hnes

**City** Murfreesboro tn **County** Out of State **State** Tn

**E-Mail Address** Bobby14hines@yahoo.com

**Comments** I trophy hunt. Using a rifle would increase my chances of taking a prize buck tremendously.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 7:34:00 AM

**Commenter Name** Chris Boyd

**City** Evansville **County** POSEY **State** In

**E-Mail Address** cboyd67@gmail.com

**Comments** I support the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 7:46:48 AM

**Commenter Name** Alex Lechlitrer

**City** Wakarusa **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** alex@indianawood.com

**Comments** I want to comment on the issue of allowing high powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. This is a horrible idea for one main reason. Safety. The majority of hunting in Indiana is done on small tracts of land. Often times, hunters are only a few hundred yards away from other hunters because of the small tracts of land they are hunting on. Opening up guns to allow high powered rifles will ultimately lead to a lot more accidents, including deaths. This will also lead to more "stray" bullets hitting unintended objects, like houses. This will lead to more opposition of hunting. There is already a national rising opposition to hunting. Why as a state, would we want to jeopardize a great national past time by allowing for the potential of more accidents to fuel the small minority in this country that wants to outlaw hunting. This will also lead to fewer hunters. The reason I say this is there are a large number of hunters right now that make safety a priority when hunting. By allowing hunting with high powered rifles, you are going to make hunting a lot less safe which will ultimately lead to fewer hunters. Fewer hunters means fewer license sales and fewer dollars to fund the Department of Natural Resources. Is this what the state wants? We already allow hunting with shotguns with slugs, muzzleloaders, rifles with handgun loads, handguns, bows and crossbows. Why the push to allow high powered rifles? Who is behind this push? Like I mentioned earlier, there is no logical reason to open deer hunting up to the potential dangers of rifles that can be lethal up to 500 yards. THIS IS A HORRIBLE IDEA that will lead to more accidents, fewer hunters, and fewer dollars for the state.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 7:58:51 AM

<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Seth Kretsinger  <b>City</b> Martinsville <b>County</b> MORGAN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> skretsinger@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> Concerning the use of center fire rifle calibers for deer hunting in Indiana: With the use of modern Muzzle loading, or high power rifle cartridges fired through a pistol (both legal) there is really no argument against the state of Indiana allowing the use of Center fire rifle cartridges from a rifle. I agree 100% that hunters should be allowed to use center fire cartridges. .243 is a great starting point to kill deer, you have described accurately what calibers(s) are the minimum allowable. Unfortunately accidents will happen when hunting there is no way the state can avoid any unfortunate accidents in the field, I wish there were. Additionally this will make Indiana more attractive to out of state (non residents) who wish to travel to kill a deer. Indiana is attracting regional and national attention as an up and coming place to kill a really nice buck. As a life long hunter and a formally trained wildlife biologist I agree 100 that Indiana should allow the use of center fire rifles to deer hunt.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 8:01:52 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Michael Rhode  <b>City</b> Evansville <b>County</b> VANDERBURGH <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Michael.Rhode@ymail.com  <b>Comments</b> I am fully in favor of expanding the caliber hunting rifles for deer. However, I believe there should be some restriction on the type of rifle allowed. Whether it is a magazine limit or a bolt action restriction, there needs to be some sort of regulation that disallows the use of ARs. I want to see hunters with hunting rifles harvesting deer, not guys with their toys looking for an opportunity to unload a 50 round clip into something with a heartbeat. Let's leave the hunting to the hunters and the toys on the range.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 8:02:46 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Aaron Myers  <b>City</b> Bloomington <b>County</b> MONROE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> myersa7575@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I would like to see some new rifle calibers added for next deer season, such as .30-30 .35rem 45-70 etc.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 8:05:46 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Justin Hardy  <b>City</b> Paoli <b>County</b> ORANGE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> massy1533@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> This proposed rule has several additions that will benefit Indiana conservation. The deer rule will in my opinion attract hunters to be able to use the option of harvesting deer with a rifle. other adjoining states have used rifles without incidents concerning safety. I think this rule may encourage other out of state residents to purchase hunting licenses as well which will generate more revenue for our states conservation efforts. Allowing this rules in this section is a great move forward for our state to continue to help conservation grow and continue to be enjoyed for generations to come. thankyou  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 8:14:04 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Greg Flinn  <b>City</b> Bloomfield <b>County</b> GREENE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> gregory.flinn@navy.mil  <b>Comments</b> Ref 312 IAC 9-3-3 Sec 3(d)(4)(A) I am much in favor of expanding the legal rifle calibers but would rather it include bullets of .223 inch diameter or larger vice the proposed .243 inch diameter or larger. I believe many states allow hunting with a .223 rifle apparently without any undue issues.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 8:17:22 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Frank A. Pund  <b>City</b> Newburgh <b>County</b> WARRICK <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> fapund@wowway.com  <b>Comments</b> I am opposed to adding a bag limit on Bluegill as proposed in 312AC9-7-10. Bluegill reproduction is prolific and establishing such a low limit will lead to problems like the Kunkel Lake overpopulation.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 8:31:43 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Chris Dawson  <b>City</b> Warsaw <b>County</b> KOSCIUSKO <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>Organization (optional)</b> WLGBC  <b>E-Mail Address</b> dawsonappraisal@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I've hunted around the country, and I believe we have the best DNR program around. You guys are flexible, not monolithic. In other words, you adapt to changes as they occur, be it managing the deer herd, or advancement in technology (allowing crossbows for example). I love the idea of allowing rifles. Please proceed with that change. I'd like to see a small change in the urban hunt. I was a founding member of the Warsaw Deer Task Force, and have noticed a huge reduction in doe's over the past 8 years. Yea! Here's the problem; After years and years of shooting only doe, virtually all I see now is bucks. And with the earn a buck rule in place (which I strongly pushed for initially), it paints us in a corner. I have to watch bucks walk by (and ultimately never get shot) waiting for a doe that doesn't exist. Now we've got a deer herd that is mostly bucks, with little to no doe's. And the earn a buck has become a road block instead of a help. I've bought many, many urban</p>

tags in the past 7 years, probably 12+. Shot at least one doe every year. Never shot a buck yet. Nobody could accuse me of being a trophy hunter. But the past 2 years, doe are almost non-existent. I think we should relax the earn a buck rule for a year; allow folks that have shot at least 5 doe without a buck to take one. Like I said, I've spent over \$200 on tags and countless hours of my time helping the city of Warsaw, shooting doe, donating some to the local food bank, etc. It seems like I've "earned" my buck so to speak. What about trying something like that for a year and then reviewing how it went? It would continue to give incentive to us urban hunters that have done a good job culling the doe herd (to the point that almost all we have now are bucks that can't be shot due to earn a buck). It seems to me you have two good options: 1) eliminate earn a buck for one year, or 2) change earn a buck so that once you shoot a doe, you can shoot a buck regardless of the time duration, i.e., if someone shoots a doe in 2014, but can't get a buck in 2014, they can start off 2015 trying for a buck. Their doe kill satisfies the earn a buck requirements until they actually kill a buck, regardless of how many years it may take. And once they've shot a buck, they have to start over and shoot another doe. But right now, we have to start over every season and have to shoot another doe, even though we never shot a buck. I know many states do earn a buck that way. By doing this, you kill two birds with one stone. You give incentive to the hunter to continue participation in the urban hunt, and help the city residents by culling deer. The residents don't care if it's a buck or doe that destroys their landscaping, or hits their car. And currently, we are not able to get help with that problem. If 20 bucks are roaming the neighborhood, and there are zero doe, then the people still have a deer problem, but we can't shoot the bucks with the current policy. How about letting the urban guys simply shoot 3 or 4 deer, regardless of sex, for one year and then re-evaluate? Just an idea....

One last thought. I know many, many folks that would jump at the chance to buy a lifetime license again. Tons of folks. I think you could make a small fortune by letting people do this again for a year. Maybe something like once every 10 years you offer it to the public. Wow, it would be big....

Thanks again for your time. Keep up the good work....

Chris

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 8:41:03 AM

**Commenter Name** Fran A. Pund

**City** Newburgh **County** WARRICK **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** fapund@wowway.com

**Comments** I support:

312IAC 9-3-3

312IAC 9-3-4

312IAC 9-3-12

312IAC 9-3-15

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 8:51:15 AM

**Commenter Name** Jake Potts

**City** Idaville **County** CARROLL **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** 1982

**E-Mail Address** octanea1@hotmail.com

**Comments** Not in favor of high powered rifles for deer hunting. The landscape is not suited to their use and we as a state are to populated for their use. Most shots in our area are within 150 yards, well within the reach of the current handgun loads in rifles. Please rethink this course of action for the safety of other hunters as well as the safety of the public. Thanks

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 8:53:09 AM

**Commenter Name** Frances Leonard

**City** North Vernon **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** franleonard1956@gmail.com

**Comments** I am more than concerned about high powered rifles being used for deer hunting. There is NOT enough open space (range) for such guns. Besides, there needs to be a level of skill involved for "hunting". I would not want my grandsons taking a deer just because they can.....they need to learn to hunt properly. If they or anyone else was using a high powered rifle, well, there wouldn't be much "hunt" involved. I am VERY MUCH opposed to the use of high powered rifles of any kind.

Thank you

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 8:55:54 AM

**Commenter Name** Keith feagley

**City** Patoka **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** keithfeagley@yahoo.com

**Comments** I do not agree with the high powered rifle addition.. So my comment is NO HIGH POWEE RIFLES!!

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:01:32 AM

**Commenter Name** Mike Harper

**City** New Haven **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Mpharper13@hotmail.com

**Comments** It would be much simpler if you would post the proposed changes. As far as opening up to large bore rifles. I don't think we need that, what we have seems to be working just fine. We don't need to be shooting at 2-3 hundred yards as is done in the west! Thank You.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:08:14 AM

**Commenter Name** TIMOTHY SMITH

**City** RICHMOND County WAYNE State IN

**E-Mail Address** smithtim1976@gmail.com

**Comments** I simply suggest that the rifle rule be revisited to EXCLUDE anything larger than a 30.30. I understand the modern muzzleloader argument of long range capabilities BUT that is only ONE shot. Take a high powered rifle round in a rifles with 3, 4, 5 or more rounds with a shooter firing at a running deer in flat country. You are flirting with disaster, my friends!! Stick with brush guns maybe up to 45.70 or all flat walled casing rounds. Thank you.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:08:55 AM

**Commenter Name** jim barnett

**City** Evansville County VANDERBURGH State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** joliverb@hotmail.com

**Comments** I support the rule of changing the caliber of rifles used in deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:11:41 AM

**Commenter Name** Kyle Adler

**City** Evansville County VANDERBURGH State IN

**E-Mail Address** kadler@hutsoninc.com

**Comments** When I first heard mention that Indiana's DNR committee was going to propose the usage of rifles for deer hunting I thought there is no way, this cannot be true. Then I dug around and found the proposal, along with several others, on the website. Needless to say, I am baffled. I cannot come up with one positive scenario this allowance would create.

First, look at the topography, urbanization, and overall landscape of Indiana. I have been hunting for 15 years and not once have I been in a setting where I cannot physically see some sort of human establishment. Around every corner, across every property line is a house, barn, farm, horse pasture, or oil well station. How can this possibly be safe for man or animal? A rifle cartridge .243 or larger with no case length restriction will be a disaster waiting to happen. You cannot compare today's modern slug guns, or muzzleloaders with the range, velocity, and energy that a high powered rifle creates. A .308 and .300 win mag are used as military sniper rounds for a reason; they go a long, long way. Can a muzzleloader or well sighted slug gun ethically take a deer at 200 yds, absolutely, by a properly trained hunter who puts his/her time in to know how their gun behaves. The belief and statement that a smokeless muzzleloader can effectively take an animal at 500yds is completely absurd and furthermore, irresponsible. A rifle is a long distance weapon, but no ethical hunter would dare take a 500 yd shot with one for multiple reasons (bullet glance off of the ground, endangering anyone else out in the woods, or hitting the side of a building, and unethical shot placement on a deer, making recovery of the animal less likely). I have been using a shotgun and bow to hunt for 15 years, and not once would a rifle have helped with the taking of an animal that snuck past. Today it is the law that any ground blind have visible hunter orange during firearms season. If adoption of a rifle season takes place, everyone will need to paint their houses and vehicles hunter orange. The first instance that a non hunter is out drinking their coffee on a Sunday morning, and they hear a whizzing bullet through the air will only create political, turmoil.

Like I have said I have been hunting for 15 years with a bow and shotgun. I have never seen the deer population as low as it currently is. In fact, I am a subscriber to the wildlife bulletin email. Just this year I received an email stating that "Even though the deer population is lower than average, expect chances at success". The DNR has stated themselves that the herd is down, and yet this committee (who I don't know puts together) wants to open rifles to up the chances at taking deer? Whitetail deer are a valuable resource that must be managed, not slaughtered. In fact, there is no reason that Indiana could not be one of the top trophy deer states in the US! Our neighboring states (KY, OH, IL, IA, WI) all are the top producing states year after year and people pay big money to come from out of state to have the chance at a trophy animal. Why can Indiana's rule committee not understand that this could also be true for our deer herd, that instead of trying to eliminate the whitetail deer we manage it to be a healthy one with trophy animals? Think of the revenue income that the DNR could pick up to pay their employees more, manage the public lands better, and offer other opportunities for hunters to take an animal within the state. Please MANAGE our deer herd and not eliminate it. We finally moved to a one buck rule and that was a huge step towards producing better, healthier deer. Don't take a step backwards with this rifle idea.

The legalization of rifles in "nearby states" is such a misleading piece. They are allowed in the Upper P of Michigan, not the southern half. Kentucky is for the biggest majority mountains (literally), large hills, and brush, timber, and way lower of a human population density. Pennsylvania? Really? The topography there is nowhere near the same as Indiana. And what about the use of rifles in Illinois, Iowa, and Ohio?... They don't allow them. For obvious reason again, and as a result people want to go to those states and pay to hunt in those states.

I do not know who all is involved on the committee to propose these laws and suggest new ideas, but it apparently is not working. The Director of the DNR needs to re-examine who makes these proposals and decisions. The Dept of Transportation is involved? I understand that deer related accidents happen, and that is unfortunate. I just hope that some insurance company big wigs are not behind any of these ideas to thin our herd to the point where hunting has lost its appeal

and tradition for those who really live to love it. Here's an idea, or those hunters who take a deer with today's rules in place they should get a rebate from the money they pay for vehicle registration. Make it a reward system, not slaughter.  
**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:15:10 AM

**Commenter Name** Terry White

**City** Brazil **County** CLAY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** grtnam@frontier.com

**Comments** I don't want the use of high powered centerfire rifles made legal for use in Indiana. This is a safety issue due to the shrinking spaces in rural Indiana. The residences are getting closer and closer to one another and will only become more of an issue as time goes by.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:24:45 AM

**Commenter Name** Russell McCoy

**City** La Porte **County** LAPORTE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** russellmccoy07@comcast.net

**Comments** I have no problem with changing the firearms rule to allow high powered rifles, those who would use them unsafely would probably be the same "hunters" that would use currently allowed firearms recklessly as well. I disagree with allowing firearms in the "Deer Reduction Zones" as well as the number of antlerless deer proposed to be taken. I think the bonus county doe limits were applicable several years ago but now the population is well under control & I think it will be hurt by continuing to allow the increased number of antlerless deer to be taken. Virtually all of the doe deer taken in the later season (Dec, Jan) will be pregnant & taking one means eliminating 2 or 3 deer at one time

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:29:15 AM

**Commenter Name** Alex W. Smith

**City** Wadesville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** aw.smith@yahoo.com

**Comments** Thank you for allowing this opportunity. I have been an avid hunter for 32 years. I hunt regularly in Indiana and Kentucky. I definitely would like to see the opportunity for all hunters to use any high powered rifle of .243 caliber or greater. I believe it will greatly increase the humane taking of whitetail deer. The consistency and accuracy of these rifles is greater than a shotgun with a slug. This can only help in the humane killing of the whitetail deer. I don't believe there will be anymore of a safety concern. I appreciate the fact that research was done on other states that allow the use of these rifles. Once again thank you for this opportunity.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:30:33 AM

**Commenter Name** Joe Combs

**City** Hobart **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** joegcombs@live.com

**Comments** I do not support using high powered rifles for hunting deer. In many state FWA areas there are a lot of hunters out during shotgun season, and I already feel unsafe at times with people taking multiple shots on the running animal. With a rifle, you're increasing the likelihood of the projectile to continue or ricochet in the event that they miss.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:31:04 AM

**Commenter Name** adam wagner

**City** huntingburg **County** DUBOIS **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** adamwagner787@gmail.com

**Comments** I believe the use of rifles is a great idea. Everyone says it will mean more wounded deer but I believe that's untrue. A hunter using a rifle with a scope will be more likely to take 1 good shot and make it count. As with shotguns and lever "cowboy" guns hunters now have the idea of using all 5+ shots if they need to and usually have no worries about sprayin' bullets everywhere. 95% of the "strong disagree crowd" have no idea as to what kinds of rifles we can already use in Indiana. They are clueless about safety and bullet trajectory of rifles and shotguns in general. They are more against "change" than anything really. Thanks for reading my comments. I'm all for using rifles

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:40:23 AM

**Commenter Name** Brian Lennon

**City** Vevay **County** SWITZERLAND **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** brianlennon70@msn.com

**Comments** I think the addition of rifles is a good and beneficial item for IndianaOE2TH

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 9:41:47 AM

**Commenter Name** Cody Lashley

**City** Wadesville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** cody.lashley@bms.com

**Comments** I am an avid hunter and angler in the southern part of the state. I would first like to state that I agree with a large majority of the changes being proposed in the Fish and Wildlife General Rule Package. I believe the state of Indiana has been lacking for many years in the area of wildlife management and I believe many of these changes are needed. However, I do not agree with several of the changes regarding deer hunting. I do not believe that additional rifles should be allowed to harvest deer. I am slightly concerned with the safety factor. I realize you state that there has been no increase in hunting-related accidents since the current list of rifles was introduced. Speaking in terms of ballistics,

these rifles do not pose a greater danger to other hunters than shotguns or muzzleloaders. I have hunted with both a .243 and .300 for many years in the state of KY and know what these weapons are capable of. I don't believe many hunters have any grasp on what these firearms are capable of. I know of too many people who don't consider what is beyond their target. My biggest concern is with the apparent decline of the deer herd in the state. It seems like every year more seasons and firearms are added with the intent of reducing the deer herd significantly. I have heard complaints from individuals in many of the southern counties about the reduced number of deer sightings on almost any given day. I have also seen this

myself. After last year's decline in harvest (over 8% I believe), I don't think this is the year to introduce more firearms and seasons. I will admit I have not researched many other states, but a firearms season in urban deer zones that lasts over two months seems unheard of to me. I believe that if the state continues to make changes like the ones proposed, the deer herd will decline greatly in the future. I realize that the short term financial gain from additional tag and license sales would be very beneficial in the near future. However, a greatly reduced deer herd will result in a significant drop in tag and license sales in the long term. So I urge you to rethink these proposals for the 2015 season.

Thank you,  
Cody A. Lashley

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 9:43:20 AM**

**Commenter Name** george saalfrank  
**City** huntertown **County** ALLEN **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** george@g2arc.com

**Comments** I am a life long Indiana hunter and also hunt out west with rifles. I am NOT in favor of allowing rifles to be used for deer hunting in Indiana. My concern is safety of hunters and non-hunters. The distance that a rifle can have deadly force is too great for our flat farm fields. There is not enough natural terrain to stop any missed shots. The rifle bullet will continue for well over a mile with enough force to kill. Safety is the main concern. It would hurt the hunting community too much if a person (especially a non-hunter) was injured or even killed do it bullets missing their target and traveling too far. If controlling deer herd numbers is a goal there are better solutions.

p.s. We own a farm and have been hunting in Steuben County for over 25 years. Spend spring time hunting turkey and all fall chasing deer, squirrel, rabbit, turkey. Many, many days in the field. Respecting and honoring nature is our goal with safety being a top priority.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 9:44:05 AM**

**Commenter Name** Sean J Leinenbach  
**City** Holland **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** sean1144228@gmail.com

**Comments** I personally don't think we need to add high powered rifles to our deer season. We are already consistently harvesting record numbers of deer with the hunting equipment already allowed. Why change something that has worked good for so many years? With as many people that hunt public ground there is a greater chance of someone getting injured or killed with how far these rifle rounds can travel. I've talked to some of my elders and they have already said they if it gets passed they won't hunt again. To many people already don't think before they shoot. The elder generation is part of the reason that we have what we do. But I also believe that our ICO's already do a great job and they should be able to keep irresponsible hunters under control. Thanks for letting me put my input in on the proposed rule change!

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 9:51:37 AM**

**Commenter Name** Scott Derby  
**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** derb6360@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am very much opposed to allowing the use of high-powered rifles during deer hunting season. The danger from unintended stray bullets to surrounding property owners, not to mention vehicular traffic traveling on adjacent roadways, is much too great. Thank you for this opportunity to express my concerns.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 9:52:19 AM**

**Commenter Name** JASON TREESH  
**City** BORDEN **County** CLARK **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** JTREESH@ICLOUD.COM

**Comments** I am for the use of high powered rifles for deer.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 9:56:10 AM**

**Commenter Name** Daren Grubbs  
**City** Greendale **County** DEARBORN **State** IN  
**Organization (optional)** 1964  
**E-Mail Address** dgrubbs1189@comcast.net

**Comments** allowing high powered rifle for deer hunting is ok, I think allowing to bate deer would be better and safer for hunters and hunting safety course would be required to hunt with a rifle

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 10:02:54 AM**

**Commenter Name** Gary Hohenberger  
**City** Fremont **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** garyhohenberger@frontier.com

**Comments** Being a resident of Indiana and a life long deer hunter, including Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana, I can't believe that IDNR is considering the use of high powered rifles for the harvesting of deer. Not only is it going to add another element of safety but it will continue to diminish the deer herd size. It seems that the INDR will not be satisfied until the deer herd size reaches a level at which hunters will no longer be willing to pay for hunting licenses. With the loss of habitat to hunt deer and the reduced number of deer sightings and opportunities to harvest one, it's only a matter of time before the number of hunters and licenses sold will start decreasing. I strongly object to the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer anywhere in Indiana. Check with Michigan and Ohio who allow high powered rifles, but only in certain areas. Wake up IDNR before it's too late!!!!

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:03:57 AM

**Commenter Name** Jamey Vail

**City** Laurel County FRANKLIN State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** james.vail@batesville.com

**Comments** I do not like the cartridge change .357 should remain the minimum, going to get alot of people hurt if you drop it to .243. To Many Buckeyes and Kentuckians who dont have a bit of common sense, that hunt in Indiana!!!!

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:19:47 AM

**Commenter Name** Doyle Lyon

**City** Seymour County JACKSON State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** doylelyon@gmail.com

**Comments** Yes, agree to proposals.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:22:29 AM

**Commenter Name** Scot W. Willis

**City** MEROM County SULLIVAN State IN

**E-Mail Address** swillis@hepn.com

**Comments** IN DNR/NRC Should Never Allow High Powered Rifles for Deer Hunting in Indiana. Only .357 Cal or Larger should be Legal for Deer Hunting with Handguns or Carbine Rifles. There will be an increased potential for accidental injuries or property damage if this rule is passed for Indiana deer hunting.

Thanks

Scot W. Willis

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:32:16 AM

**Commenter Name** Nolan Taylor

**City** Sellersburg County CLARK State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** liveblue07@gmail.com

**Comments** Think this is a great idea that will result extended effective ranges which lead to ethical kills and better population control.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:42:16 AM

**Commenter Name** Arthur Hutter

**City** Auburn County DEKALB State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ajhutter@yahoo.com

**Comments** The rule 312IAC9-3-3 allowing high powered rifles to kill deer is too dangerous there are too many houses and persons that could be injured by stray bullets or bullets passing through the animals and continuing on. The proposed rule 312-IAC9-7-10 is also not needed there are too many small panfish in our lakes and streams putting a limit on them will only increase the number of small fish causing the larger fish less food for consumption.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:51:38 AM

**Commenter Name** Brad Lashley

**City** Wadesville County POSEY State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** duxman62@yahoo.com

**Comments** I looked over the current proposals and agree with most of the fishing ones but disagree with several of the deer hunting ones. Don't agree with the rifle proposal. In areas that I hunt a 100 yd shot is all that is available. I have hunted in KY for the last 7 years and used a rifle. With rifle in hand everybody becomes a 500 yard shooting expert. I have found at least one dead deer (unretrieved) on my property the last 3 years due to poor shooting. Safety is a concern as well. On other issues, don't understand why so many depredation tags are being given out, and if they are it should be required to retrieve and donate the deer to food shelter. Too many deer are being shot and left lay to rot. Crossbow should return to being a handicapped weapon only. If the state is going to allow only one buck, it should be only one buck. Too many hunters are killing bucks with a bow and turning them in as if they were killed in different counties (vanderburgh), allowing them to kill another buck later. It feels like the trend is to kill all the deer you can these days and leave none for seed. If continued it will get to the point it was in the 70's, not judging the season by if you killed a deer, but if you were lucky enough to see one. Also, does the state take into account the number of deer that are taken illegally, since the rise of the price of deer tags I have heard of plenty of hunters not buying tags until after harvesting a deer or not checking in deer and using one tag to kill 3 deer. But I guess there have always been outlaws and there always will be (sad). I know there are many things taken into account that I do not understand, so good luck making these decisions and I hope they work out for the best. Please try to keep the law abiding hunters in mind when making these decisions, not allowing it to be easier for the non law abiding hunters/farmers.

Brad A. Lashley

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 11:04:44 AM

**Commenter Name** Bill Leep

**City** Highland **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bghunter63@hotmail.com

**Comments** The changes dealing with deer hunting with a rifle are a good idea and should be approved.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 11:05:41 AM

**Commenter Name** Tom Hougham

**City** Trafalgar **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** annntom@hotmail.com

**Comments** I agree Ruffed Grouse hunting should be suspended until adequate populations are present and those populations are self sustaining.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 11:14:43 AM

**Commenter Name** Kyle Karkosky

**City** Anderson **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** kyle.karkosky@gmail.com

**Comments** I believe that adding rifles that are .243 and higher would be a good addition to firearms season. I can shoot my shotgun at 300yds and put a deer down. It would be more humane and a cleaner kill using a rifle then using my shotgun. Allowing rifles would even assist in have a lower amount of deer that get away and die in the woods un-recovered.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 11:19:47 AM

**Commenter Name** David L. Anderson

**City** Bruceville **County** KNOX **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** davidanderson9511@gmail.com

**Comments** I am writing in support of the language in this proposal regarding the inclusion of most center-fire rifle cartridges in rifle platforms for Indiana deer hunting. As you know, certain rifles have been allowed for the past seven seasons. I have a Wildcat made by necking up a WSSM to .358, and I've used it for six seasons. The very first shot I took in the field with the rifle was a 502 yard, one-shot kill, measured by laser, and that was in 2008. I've also taken antelope with it. I have around \$2500 in the weapon and optics. It far surpasses the factory .308 I have in the vault for killing deer or anything else. I have a 300-yard range at home, and I use it A LOT. Practice is the key.

In 1997 or '98, rifle-cartridges .243 and larger became legal. My first shot in the field with my 30-06 scoped pistol was a one-shot, 265 yard kill. That was in 1998. My longest kill with the pistol is 523 yards, measured by laser, and that was in 2002.

I have kept personal Indiana deer harvest records back to 1989. A total of thirty-three kills are documented. My average deer harvest range using my 30-06 pistol is 219 yards, and using my .358 WSSM rifle is 264 yards. My records are available for viewing, if you request. I'd be happy to email them to you. Regarding safety, we've been using centerfire rifle cartridges, and most recently rifles themselves, for a pretty long time with no ill effects.

Some argue (correctly) that my Indiana deer legal 358 can't compete in energy/ballistics with their 300 Magnum, and therefore the 300 and all similar rifles should be banned. But my 358 can do anything that a 300 can do out to 500 yards, and the deer is just as dead.

Some hunters argue that "long-range" hunting is irresponsible and unethical. I agree that it can be, depending on the shooter. An anti-hunter could, and would, easily morph this hunter-initiated argument into questioning the ethics of taking deer with less-than the most humane method, such as with archery equipment or muzzle loaders. Or just plain bad shooters with shotguns. They would say that marksmanship tests are in order as a prerequisite to being licensed to hunt, and there should be restrictions on types of firearms, and maybe there are other methods to more humanely take the animals, and down the slippery slope we hunters go. And the catalyst for it all would be the hunter versus hunter mantra.

The worst possible reason to change the rules is selfish self-interest, whether rifles or anything else. The herd size is what matters. I interpret the DNR stats as saying that although the 2013 harvest was below the 2012, it was still way above previous years. And harvest can't be interchanged with herd size. The DNR stats indicate that the herd size is not decreasing. Therefore, there is no harm in allowing self-interest, such as use of rifles, in this case.

I love the sport, and would do nothing to harm it. Alarmists will proclaim that this rule change will lead to the "dumbing down" of the sport. I heard the same comments when we went to revolvers, then to rifle-cartridge pistols, then to limited rifles, then to cross-bows, and now it's "standard" rifles. The sky didn't fall, as some predicted. What I predict is more people joining the sport as a result of diversification.

I'm almost 60 years old, and I'm a lifelong serious shooter and reloader. Most of my Indiana deer kills are in the neighborhood of 200 yards at most, but my point is that we all do not all hunt deer in the same manner. Although I love a good close-up muzzle loader or revolver hunt, I also enjoy hunting deer the way I hunt out west; from across the pasture or



field, and with a piece of metal that I designed and ammo that I designed. With all do respect, I appreciate that some Indiana deer hunters, or maybe most, have neither the familiarization nor the inclination to hunt with long-range firearms. That's fine. But when we turn against each other and fight between ourselves over the pursuit of legitimate and ethical hunting methods that happen to be in conflict with our personal desires, we hand the anti-hunters an easy victory. And we do all of the work for them.

Very respectfully, Dave Anderson

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 11:21:32 AM**

**Commenter Name** Theodore Keeler

**City** Granger **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Tkeeler69@icloud.com

**Comments** The centerfire proposal is a good policy for deer hunting. The centerfire provides an accurate and clean ethical kill for the animal. The DNR may want to provide information on safe centerfire usage. (ie knowing what's beyond your target) Look forward to the change.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 11:33:38 AM**

**Commenter Name** Nick Volz

**City** Tulsa **County** Out of State **State** oklahoma

**E-Mail Address** nick44v@aol.com

**Comments** Hope you allow usage of 30-30 and 30-06 rifles... Myself and wife will hunt in Indiana in 2015... Bytheway, she shoots the 30-06...LOL

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 11:37:50 AM**

**Commenter Name** Jim Steinberger

**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** weams@msn.com

**Comments** Re: amendment concerning use of high-powered rifles for deer hunting -

High powered rifles should not be allowed anywhere for deer hunting in Indiana. The use of high-powered rifles would pose a serious danger to the public, especially other hunters and outdoor recreationists. Also, there is no need, as serious hunters are able to achieve very reasonable success and the harvest is more than adequate using currently legal means.

Re: amendment concerning establishing a bag limit for panfish -

A bag limit for panfish would be a very positive change in favor of improved conservation and fishing opportunities. Panfish are currently often over-fished in many location, especially during the spring spawning seasons when they are most concentrated and vulnerable. A bag limit of 20 would be a very big improvement and still allow ample opportunities for fishing.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 11:38:52 AM**

**Commenter Name** daniel collins

**City** salem **County** WASHINGTON **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** djcboone@gmail.com

**Comments** first im 39 and have a lifetime license been hunting since about 10. I agree with the grouse change. I also like the idea for high powered rifles for deer hunting. I think maybe you should put a cap on how big you can go. thanks

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 11:52:53 AM**

**Commenter Name** Jay Maxwell

**City** Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jay.maxwell@att.net

**Comments** IAC 9-3-3 I am against the legalization of high-powered rifles. Indiana obviously doesn't care about the quality of deer hunting in this state. Numbers of deer are way down in the areas I hunt and this proposed rule will only worsen it. But the state will get what it wants - increased license sales and a further reduced deer herd. Maybe it's time for me to give up deer hunting. With stupid proposals such as this, it's no wonder Chad Stewart left IDNR to go to Michigan!

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 12:04:17 PM**

**Commenter Name** John Deetz

**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** In

**E-Mail Address** rastis@ligtel.com

**Comments** The use of high powered rifles in deer hunting is a very serious safety issue. In our rural area, we have a lot of housing additions, roads, lakes among some very wooded areas. The use of high powered rifles will encourage a hunter to take longer shots, and shots well beyond the capabilities of some hunters. A lot of hunters don't consider the path trajectory of a ricochet of a bullet being fired in the moment of the kill. If the shot results in a miss, or a through shot, where is it's stopping point. we've seen a lot of people from the cities come to the country and do some really misguided things. Peoples' lives will be less safe in these rural areas is this rule is adapted.

I realize that the insurance companies and farmers would like the deer population reduced because of damage and costs. I just think this reduction can be accomplished in a better way.

Manipulation of length and times of the hunting season and equipment used of the hunting season.

I would approach the problem in this fashion rather than putting peoples lives at stake.

I am a hunter myself, but safety is my first priority. That is what I have taught my children. I can't believe that anyone in the affected areas of this rule would support high powered rifles being used.  
Thankyou for giving me a forum to voice my concerns.  
**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 12:07:51 PM

**Commenter Name** Matt Byington  
**City** Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** matthew.byington@gmail.com  
**Comments** I am in complete support of the proposed allowance of the use of rifles for deer hunting.  
**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 12:19:26 PM

**Commenter Name** Greg Byington  
**City** Brownsburg **County** HENDRICKS **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** GregByington@gmail.com  
**Comments** I am in complete support of the proposed allowance of the use of rifles for deer hunting.  
**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 12:20:41 PM

**Commenter Name** Richard Knapp  
**City** Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** IN **E-Mail Address** raknapp55@gmail.com  
**Comments** I support the proposed changes to the types of firearms that can be used for deer season. However, I have a couple of concerns. I would like to see the bullet diameter defined as 6mm or 6mm and .24 inches. To those of us familiar with firearms we use 6mm and .243 interchangeably, but to an attorney or judge who could become involved, and who is not familiar with firearms, 6mm is actually slightly smaller than .24 inches and might be found to be inviolation. My other concern is bullet weight. I would like to see a minimum bullet weight. 243/6mm can be loaded with bullets down in the 55 gr +/- weight range. I fear that these lighter bullets do not retain sufficient energy to make clean kills, especially down range. Thank you for your consideration and an opportunity to be heard.  
**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 12:22:18 PM

**Commenter Name** Brett Hankins  
**City** connersville **County** FAYETTE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** hankinsracing@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I ask that the proposed rule change to allow rifles .243 and up be voted down. Indiana is to populated and has to many hunters close to each other during firearm season to use high powered rifles. Thanks for your time.  
**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 12:26:36 PM

**Commenter Name** Woody Williams  
**City** Newburgh **County** WARRICK **State** IN  
**Organization (optional)** Hunt-Indiana.com  
**E-Mail Address** asats@wowway.com  
**Comments** I support the inclusion of all centerfire rifles (243 and up) for deer hunting in Indiana. Data form other states indicate that they are no more dangerous than what we presently use. It is still what is in the mind of the hunter and not what is in his/her hands as to what is dangerous. All hunting tools should be used safely..  
**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 12:31:06 PM

**Commenter Name** John Harrison  
**City** Sullivan **County** SULLIVAN **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** jh281@evansville.edu  
**Comments** Hello,  
I am commenting on the proposed legislation to increase the size of allowable rifle cartridges for deer hunting. I feel that the population density and layout of most Indiana lands (including my county of Sullivan) is dangerous at best for such cartridges.  
Most people that deer hunt realize the mass amount of unqualified deer hunters already in our woods that hunt with shotguns. Many of morning you will hear someone 'empty' their shotgun with three consecutive rounds. That is irresponsible to say the least, and completely unnecessary. It should not take 3 shots to kill a deer. My worry, is that these bigger, more powerful cartridges will range too far in several of these situations.  
A hunter may see a deer in a field and fire a .243 or .270 or .300 with several back to back shots, that can skip for well over a mile if hitting the dirt correctly.  
Most people who are 'for' rifles argue that muzzleloaders can shoot equivocally or "squirrel hunters shoot .22's, and they shoot a long way", or "coyote hunters already get to use high powered rifles". While some of this is true, the number of hunters for these species are but a tiny percentage of deer hunters. Most people who are coyote hunting at ground level know how to hunt responsibly, and at very worst, do not see tons of coyotes to unload on. There are also not 3-5 hunters per county block on opening morning as there are with deer.  
I feel like it is unnecessary at best to allow large calibers. Deer can be taken humanely and efficiently with our current regulations. If this were to go through, I feel like a GOOD COMPROMISE would to at least limite the magazine capacity as well as the gun to be 'bolt action', where you will not have semi automatic guns being available to any idiot that feels spraying bullets across fields at deer is necessary. This would at least limit the hunt to more of a 'one shot, one kill' philosophy and keep the hunter focused on making his first shot count, as well as keeping it safe.

Thanks,  
John Harrison  
**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:03:37 PM**

**Commenter Name** Barry French  
**City** Fortville **County** MADISON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** bay72100@aol.com

**Comments** I fully agree with accepting the new rule change allowing the use of high powered rifles in Indiana based on the fact that other species of animal 's have been allowed to be hunted with high powered rifles . This should be no different with whitetail deer hunting taking into consideration that studies have been done relating to this issue with no increased incidents or safety issues involving this matter. Thank You

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:04:55 PM**

**Commenter Name** James Winters  
**City** Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** jmbawinters@embarqmail.com

**Comments** I believe the use of high powered rifles will take away from the sport of having to wait till the Deer gets in range and other hunters taking shots that could injure others.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:19:24 PM**

**Commenter Name** Scott Waters  
**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** In.  
**E-Mail Address** shootersw@yahoo.com

**Comments** I support the use of high powered rifles state wide . I've used 308 barreled pistols and long range muzzle loader's for years. I think I could be a lot more effective with a proper rifle.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:20:50 PM**

**Commenter Name** Daniel Bradford  
**City** Sullivan **County** SULLIVAN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** jo\_dan84@hotmail.com

**Comments** I wish to go on record and urge you to reject the use of rifles for taking deer during legal deer seasons in Indiana. I love hunting and spending time in the woods with my kids, and the use of rifles would make the sport MUCH less safe and would change the nature of the sport. Using high powered rifles in areas with flat terrains and close to homes is VERY DANGEROUS to home owners as well as other hunters. Hunters in this area are used to shotguns with a limited range. Switching to high powered rifles would GREATLY increase the distance for the projectiles and therefore increase danger to hunters and homeowners. PLEASE, do not allow this to become law. Thank you so much for your consideration.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:25:10 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jerry Sidwell  
**City** Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** jsidwell@idoc.in.gov

**Comments** I believe that rifles being allowed during firearms season would be a worth while addition. Shotguns have become more powerful over the years and are just as accurate as some rifles out to distances close to 300yds.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:35:28 PM**

**Commenter Name** John Forbes  
**City** Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** bazil84@yahoo.com

**Comments** I've hunted whitetail deer for 36 years and in several states. In my opinion, we have enough firearms and seasons currently. However, should the issue of allowing a rifle season pass, those being permitted the privilege to hunt deer in the state with a rifle, should be required to pass Hunter's Education prior to utilizing these firearms. Population density should be taken into accountability by county if necessary for their usage. Caliber limitations, types of ammunition and magazine capacity should be analyzed. I understand a .223 cal is somewhat light weight but at the opposite end of the spectrum, is a .300 Win Mag or .30-06 necessary for whitetail deer. I've hunted with a .35 Rem single shot pistol since pistol season was allowed and have harvested every deer shot with it. My question is posed as to why this same caliber has not been allowed to be shot out of a rifle in this state? Please think about what is best for all not just a select few out there. Thank you

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:41:37 PM**

**Commenter Name** eric spicer  
**City** deputy **County** SCOTT **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** ericspicer1@yahoo.com

**Comments** Is this a joke. Panfish is a invasive fish. They will stave out waterr systems, if not kept down. And a size limit on catfish. In river systems are the same as bluegills. Its pretty bad when i cant take me son fishing and enjoy a day with having to worry about stupid rules and regulations. By the way how many of you take your kids or grand kids out fishing every weekend in the summer? Goverment needs to know when to quit making stupid rules just so they can levy fines to make money to pay chair warmers like you all...Dont mess with my fishing...

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:52:02 PM**

**Commenter Name** J. Cody Roush

**City Shoals County MARTIN State In**

**Organization (optional)** White River Marine

**E-Mail Address** info@whiterivermarine.com

**Comments** We as a state do not need LARGER rifles to deer hunt. It is just legalized pouching in my eyes and UNSAFE. Our gun season is should only be 7 days like Illinois. Our poor deer do not stand a chance to grow. Do not pass this change. I'm worried enough now that I can't take my kids hunting on opening weekend cause of the idiots out there.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:54:09 PM**

**Commenter Name** BRAD LUSK

**City AURORA County DEARBORN State INDIANA**

**E-Mail Address** BRADLUSK05@YAHOO.COM

**Comments** WE DON'T NEED HIGH POWERED RIFLES IN INDIANA. Currently we have re curve bows, crossbows, 410, 28, 16, 20, 12 gauge shotguns, muzzle loaders, rifles with pistol cartridges. That's plenty of weapons!!!

More hunters will be shot by stray bullets, because they travel so much farther.

STICK WITH THE CURRENT RULE!

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 1:54:59 PM**

**Commenter Name** Albert B. Drake

**City Madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana**

**E-Mail Address** marbrook@cinergymetro.net

**Comments** COST OF NON-RESIDENT DEER LICENSES. I'm an Indiana resident. Every year, since 1986, I've hosted friends from other states to deer hunt in Indiana. We usually have seven to ten Non-Resident hunters.

This means that Indiana has received a very substantial amount of money over the past twenty-eight years and will into the foreseeable future. Currently they each pay \$150 for a Non-Resident buck tag. If they want to harvest a doe they must pay an additional \$150.

In my opinion this is priced too high. A more equitable way to price this would be to allow a Non-Resident to purchase the buck tag for \$150 and then a doe tag for \$24, the same as an Indiana resident.

During deer season 2014 one of my Non-Resident guests had four does and a legal fork horn buck walk in front of his deer stand. He shot the young buck. He is a meat hunter and would have preferred to let the young buck walk and instead harvest a doe. He had no choice but to shoot the buck because all he had was a \$150 buck license.

Most of my Non-Resident guests would buy a \$24 doe license every year in addition to their \$150 buck tag. Currently none of them do this.

If you enact this change revenue enhancement for Indiana would move from zero to the positive side of the ledger. I assure you that our group and many, many other Non-Resident hunters will buy \$24 Non-Resident does tags.

Please consider this. It is a win-win for all of us: INDR, Residents and Non-Residents.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 2:05:15 PM**

**Commenter Name** lonis choate

**City valparaiso County PORTER State in.**

**E-Mail Address** lonischo@comcast.net

**Comments** allowing 14" fish to grow to 16 will mean more young walleyes will be eaten for a nother year . I catch 14"fish with fry in there stomach .

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 2:08:42 PM**

**Commenter Name** Tony Thurman

**City New castle County HENRY State IN**

**E-Mail Address** Trthurman75@gmail.com

**Comments** As a lifelong hunter in Indiana I am fully in favor of this proposed rule change!! With modern inline muzzleloaders there isn't much difference from rifles. I'd like to see gun season pushed back to not include the rut as this would promote bigger bucks! Thx for your time.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 2:12:51 PM**

**Commenter Name** peter miter

**City bloomington County MONROE State Indiana**

**E-Mail Address** pamiter@yahoo.com

**Comments** The new rule for rifle calibers is excellent. I would also suggest extending the dusk and dawn hunting times from 30 to 45 minutes before and after sunrise / sunset as well as allowing thermo or infrared

<p>imaging sensors</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 2:46:50 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> William Weaver  <b>City</b> Haughton <b>County</b> Out of State <b>State</b> Louisiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> fweaver@bellsouth.net  <b>Comments</b> I have been deer hunting for over 40 years in several different states with a 30-06 rifle. I have never encountered any problems. I know some states wont allow large rifles to be used, but I never knew the reason. I really don't have a comment other than trying to understand why large rifles are not allowed..  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 2:48:16 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> John Schoenheit  <b>City</b> Bloomington <b>County</b> MONROE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> jschoen777@aol.com  <b>Comments</b> I like the idea of allowing deer hunting with high powered rifles. Overall I do not think that would increase danger to hunters or to deer herds. The primary danger to hunters (after falling from deer stands) is from overcrowded hunting land, which does not seem to be a problem in IN. I have hunted a number of states with my 30.06 and never had, or heard of, a problem.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 2:50:28 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Granville Carpenter  <b>City</b> Plainfield <b>County</b> HENDRICKS <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> granville.b.carpenter@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> Hoosier's should be allowed to hunt deer with rifles.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 3:06:09 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> John Katterjohn  <b>City</b> Indianapolis <b>County</b> MARION <b>State</b> in  <b>E-Mail Address</b> landkat007@aol.com  <b>Comments</b> I support the closing of hunting of ruffed grouse for an indefinite period. I own land in the Hoosier National Forest near Houston, IN, and have not heard or seen grouse in many years. I used to hear the drumming every spring. We need a forest management system as well to provide habitat and re-introduce the species.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 3:35:32 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Dennis Thompson  <b>City</b> Indianapolis <b>County</b> MARION <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> val00352@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> In regards to 312-1ac9-3-3 I would like to see a high powered rifle season for deer.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 3:43:50 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Terry Matzat  <b>City</b> North Judson <b>County</b> STARKE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> tmatz52@live.com  <b>Comments</b> 35-47-1-6 To use high powered rifles to hunt deer may be a great thing where an abundance of heavy cover and natural obstacles are present, however, in Starke County we have vast open and almost flat areas where high powered rounds would travel for far further than the hunter could see. I would hate to have one of my family member shot in their home while going about their daily routine. Also, our roads are on one mile grids so any vehicle or farm equipment would be at risk. I love my guns and hunting and I also think we have more than enough regulations to deal with. I'm sure most hunters would be mature enough to use a high powered rifle. Maybe the answer would be to only allow hunters over 21 to use such a rifle for hunting. If not that, then those hunters would have to attend a qualifying course on safety for long range. Thank you, Terry Matzat  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 3:47:45 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> john timm  <b>City</b> amboy <b>County</b> MIAMI <b>State</b> indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> timtimjoma@aol.com  <b>Comments</b> I am Not in favor of allowing the use of high powered center-fired rifles. I believe there is a safety factor that should not be ignored... theres a lack of common sense with this proposal .Indiana is to populated and too flat to safely use HP rifles... and the reasoning that that other nearby states are doing it..... seems to be comparing apples to oranges .....HP rifles..... bad idea thanks,,john  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 3:51:59 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Arthur Choate  <b>City</b> Valparaiso <b>County</b> PORTER <b>State</b> Indana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> silverbuddy1@icloud.com  <b>Comments</b> I don't think by letting wall I grow longer before you take him is going to help production of wall why. I think that the 14 inch walleye I have found from catching some thethey have wall I fry in them so if you leave more in to get larger they're just going to eat mcfore fry.</p>

<p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 4:08:56 PM</b></p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Shane Collins  <b>City</b> Roanoke <b>County</b> HUNTINGTON <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> scollins972@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I am against the use of high powered rifles in Indiana. I hunt public land a lot and think that it is not very safe. The public lands get crowded during firearms season. The land has lots of cover that you can not see through but a bullet could get through. It is not hard to get close to deer to get a good safe shot no need to shoot 300-500 yards at a deer. I know muzzle loaders can shoot accurately 200-300 yards but it is only one shot and not as many hunters using them. I know coyote hunters can use the rifles but again there is very few coyote hunters out compared to deer hunters. In this state there is not enough open land to justify the use of these high powered rifles it is just not safe here.</p> <p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 4:11:13 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jarad Eberly  <b>City</b> South whitley <b>County</b> WHITLEY <b>State</b> In  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Jarad.eberly@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> The proposed rifle law changes are down right scary! This area has no need for rifle rounds that can travel 500 plus yards. This proposed law change would be dangerous to hunters and innocent bystanders. This is a dangerous law proposal and Indiana is crazy if they pass it!</p> <p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 4:22:41 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Steve Keller  <b>City</b> Geneva <b>County</b> ADAMS <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> skeller@webersterlinglaw.com  <b>Comments</b> Re: Rifles and Deer Hunting  <b>Position</b> - Against the rule change  <b>Why</b> - (1) Safety, (2) Unnecessary, (3) Not Sporting  <b>Detail</b> -  (1) Safety - Indiana is flat. It is not Kentucky. It is not a mountain state. Many of us hunt on farmland. Small woods, flat land. I do not want someone shooting in the next woods over with a rifle. If the deer is not close enough to harvest it with a shotgun, then let it go. There will be another. I do not want people shooting from one side of their field to the other. That is unsafe.  (2) Unnecessary - Bows are allowed. Crossbows are allowed. Muzzle loaders are allowed. Shotguns are allowed. Who is clamoring or lobbying for high powered rifles? No one I know. Is this an effort by gun sellers to sell more new rifles? Maybe.  (3) Not Sporting - If you cannot get a deer with a bow, crossbow, shotgun, or muzzleloader, then you are out of range. Not fair to the animal. Not fair to other hunters. Not safe. Not sporting.  This rule change is unnecessary and unwanted.</p> <p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 4:30:40 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Clay Scott  <b>City</b> Kirklin <b>County</b> BOONE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> clayscott319@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I am absolutely in favor of using rifles for deer. Shotguns and muzzle loaders are almost as powerful. States with rifle hunting don't have an increase in accidents.</p> <p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 5:07:50 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Dennis Thompson  <b>City</b> Indianapolis <b>County</b> MARION <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> val00352@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> 3121ac9410 Close ruffed grouse season. Not many around no more.</p> <p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 5:15:18 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jerry Burdette  <b>City</b> Evansville <b>County</b> VANDERBURGH <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> burdnest@wowway.com  <b>Comments</b> I oppose the use of any rifle other than muzzle loaded to hunt deer for safety reasons, there a lot of idiots out there.  Thank you. J</p> <p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 5:56:57 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> robert strik  <b>City</b> peru <b>County</b> CASS <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> rmstrik@exede.net  <b>Comments</b> I would like the bluegill rule to stay the way it is. No bag limit, or size limit.</p>

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 6:03:32 PM**

**Commenter Name** Brandon Porter  
**City** Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** morel@wowway.com

**Comments** I believe high powered rifles is a bad idea for Indiana. I've hunted Kentucky for the last 6 years using high powered rifle. It would be nice to use my rifle but impractical. The places I hunt in Indiana I can view many houses from my tree stand. In Kentucky, I could not do that from any of my stands in any of the different properties. I think more accidents would happen. I would like to comment and say I think KY has the simplest laws for deer hunting regarding tag purchase. Your tag allows you 2 deer with modern gun, muzzleloader, bow, or crossbow. I don't have to keep buying tags for different weapons if I don't tag out. Its really confusing for wal mart and rural king clerks as well. I would also like to comment on the urban deer tag. It would be nice if shotguns were allowed to take the urban buck. I've missed out on a couple nice ones because they were just out of range. Regarding earn a buck, I consider myself an honest man and try to practice good hunting ethics, and it seems like this law only challenges my moral.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 6:24:14 PM**

**Commenter Name** John LaGue  
**City** Crawfordsville **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** John.lague@yahoo.com

**Comments** Hunters all over the state are seeing less deer every year. I don't think using high powered rifles is a good idea with a diminishing deer herd. If rifles are made legal the number of deer we can legally harvest should be cut way back. Us hunters are concerned about the direction the deer hunting in Indiana is going.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 6:26:13 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jerry Ross  
**City** Michigan City **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** Rosscharters@yahoo.com

**Comments** I fully support the changes to include rifles. Should have happened sooner. Thank you

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 7:08:01 PM**

**Commenter Name** Dave Weyer  
**City** Princeton **County** GIBSON **State** in  
**E-Mail Address** ddweyer@yahoo.com

**Comments** The state of Indiana does NOT need a rifle season for hunting deer. WE have all the weapons needed already in place that will allow any resident to hunt whitetail deer, if they are in perfect health or disabled. I hope you think this through before making a rifle season in Indiana. Thanks

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 7:23:42 PM**

**Commenter Name** Roger A Hand  
**City** Washington **County** DAVIESS **State** In  
**Organization (optional)** None  
**E-Mail Address** Rhand66@icloud.com

**Comments** Totally against the legalization of rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. There are too many idiots that hunt already. If a person wants to hunt with a rifle they need to spend the money and have a rifle built that falls in the legal requirements. NO TO RIFLES IN INDIANA!!!!

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 7:29:25 PM**

**Commenter Name** George Wright  
**City** Mishawaka **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** gspuddler@comcast.net

**Comments** Any use of high caliber rifles for deer hunting is unsafe. I have heard someone at the DNR say that muzzle loaders and hp rifles have the same range. This is not true unless a muzzle loader is using fast burning powder. I only know one company that makes such a muzzle loader. A 30/30 rifle doesn't have the the range of a 270 or a 243 [to small] but it still has more velocity and range than a mz. I think using necked down ammo in pistols is already stretch.

**Comment Received 12/5/2014 7:40:26 PM**

**Commenter Name** Bryan Meharry  
**City** West Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** cptainv@yahoo.com

**Comments** in regards to 312 IAC 9-8-5 Commercial fishing on inland water. I do NOT agree that commercial fishing should be allowed so far up the Wabash river as well as up into the White river and Patoka river. The river is not large enough to allow safe navigation around commercial nets. I also feel the fish population will suffer adversely if commercial fishing is allowed this far up these rivers.

I regularly sportfish the Wabash river below the US 231 bridge and it has become increasingly difficult to catch any flathead catfish and the size and quantity of channel catfish has decreased in the 25 years I have fished this section of river. If commercial fishing is allowed it should only be allowed for Asian Carp. They have made boating a dangerous endeavour in the Wabash. Perhaps commercial fishing for the invasive carp could help control their population. Thank you for considering my opinion.

<p><b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 7:46:48 PM</b></p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Kyle Resener  <b>City</b> Georgetown <b>County</b> FLOYD <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> kresener2@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> i support this rule, especially loosening the caliber requirements for deer hunting. I believe the current restrictions are a burden on Hoosier sportsmen because we can not use traditional deer hunting calibers. I support amending these restrictions, and based on other states that have restrictions similar to thise proposed in Indiana, I don't believe there is much of a downside.  <b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 8:13:43 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brent Miller  <b>City</b> Canaan <b>County</b> SWITZERLAND <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> brent13@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I do NOT agree with the allowance of high powered rifles for the hunting of deer. I have concerns for safety as well as social issues. Current regulations allow for more than enough firearms options for Hoosier hunters.  <b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 8:20:29 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> p.chumley  <b>City</b> winamac <b>County</b> PULASKI <b>State</b> indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> chumley946@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> This comment is in regards to high powered rifles for hunting...I am against it. I libe between the game preserve and the state park and I have children. The rifle.bulletsnwould or could travel to far and injure or kill one of.my animals or even worse, kids. So no to high power rifles  <b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 8:41:47 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Glenn Bryan  <b>City</b> Ft. Wayne <b>County</b> ALLEN <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> glennandlindabryan@comcast.net  <b>Comments</b> I disagree with 312 IAC 9-3-9 the rule is perfectly fine the way it is.I like having the opportunity to pick a fresh road kill and have the officer on the scene to issue a permit to transport. As to rule 312 IAC 9-7-10 I agree that there should be a limit on sunfish. I think they are being over fished.  <b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 8:45:19 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Cory Neff  <b>City</b> Alexandria <b>County</b> MADISON <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> neffcd@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> Please do not allow high powered rifles for hunting in our state. I don't think you realize how many idiots live in this state and will be slinging lead across every county. Firearms season is out of control right now. You have guys firing multiple shots at running deer. Imagine that scenario with high powered rifles. I don't even like to hunt during firearms season anymore for those specific reasons. Please keep Indiana's hunting integrity and stop this now!  <b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 8:45:20 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Michael Tepe  <b>City</b> Goshen <b>County</b> ELKHART <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mdtbucks1984@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I would hate to see them allow rifle hunting, the deer herd is already as low as ive seen in my 16 years of hunting and this will only make it worse. Not to mention the fact that I wont feel nearly as safe when people who are uneducated are shooting weapons capable of shooting such far distances. I would also like to say that I think the antlerless tags need to be cut down even more. Some where around 2 bonus tags per county. I currently have been hunting in Noble, Elkhart, and Fulton counties and have not seen enough deer to feel comfortable shooting as many deer as they will allow and neither do the other hunters that I speak with in the area. Thanks for your time..  <b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 8:54:09 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Raph Miller  <b>City</b> Versailles <b>County</b> RIPLEY <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> rmiller@goodegg.com  <b>Comments</b> I am against having High Powered Rifle hunting for deer in Indiana. I do not see any benefit for the Deer herd or the Deer hunters of Indiana.   The only people that this will benefit are those that do not want to take the time and effort in scouting to get close to the animal they are hunting.   I also believe that we will see a huge increase in poaching by allowing the use of High Powered Rifles in Deer Season.  <b>Comment Received 12/5/2014 9:01:02 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Laura Fuderer  <b>City</b> South Bend <b>County</b> ST.JOSEPH <b>State</b> IN</p>



<p><b>Organization (optional)</b> South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society  <b>E-Mail Address</b> lfuderer@nd.edu  <b>Comments</b> As Conservation Chair of the South Bend-Elkhart Audubon Society I speak on behalf of over 800 members in St. Joseph and Elkhart Counties who support this amendment that would forbid hunting roughed grouse in Indiana. It seems a shame that you have waited until the species has almost disappeared from our state to think about removing it from game animals. Have we learned nothing from the extinction of the Passenger Pigeon in 1914?  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:06:57 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jack Smith  <b>City</b> Twelve Mile <b>County</b> CASS <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> hurley9er@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> The prososed rule about letting high power rifles being used during deer season. I as a hunter believe this act is very deadly and unsmart on your guys part if this pass. I know that Muzzle loaders are almost the same, but not many people use them cause of the expense of using one. My concern is that high power rifle can reach much farther than any gun. I as a hunter would feel safe to be out in the woods and i dont know where other hunters are at in surrounding lands. I would hate for some law enforcement to explain to my 3 year old what happened to his dad. I would strongly recommended you not use this type of weapons. I could see if it was in open plains like Montana or sone where like that where you can see miles away. Thanks and have a blessed Christmas  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:08:46 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Justin Pastore  <b>City</b> Crawfordsville <b>County</b> MONTGOMERY <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> slippery_justin@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I like the rule changes allowing high powered rifles with today's muzzleloader that shoot 300yds it's the same thing. I just hope people have the common sense to not think just cause they have a rifle they are a sniper and can shoot 500yds.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:09:50 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> J.D. Williams  <b>City</b> Carmel <b>County</b> HAMILTON <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Jdandgina@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I am in favor of the rule change allowing for all rifle cartridges to be used for deer hunting.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:38:10 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> dan mclaughlin  <b>City</b> portland <b>County</b> JAY <b>State</b> in  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mac_buck@comcast.net  <b>Comments</b> i have been a deer hunter for 30 years and feel that making high power rifles legal is a step in the wrong direction when it comes to hunter safety  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:38:26 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Eric McElhaney  <b>City</b> Greenwood <b>County</b> JOHNSON <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> eric.mcelhaney@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I believe that the new rifle to harvest deer is a good one, but I believe that the rifle should be manual operation and limited to 5 round magazine.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:44:58 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Bill Anders  <b>City</b> Churubusco <b>County</b> NOBLE <b>State</b> INDIANA  <b>E-Mail Address</b> bill7388@ligtel.com  <b>Comments</b> I am in favor of the rule changes to the rifle rules with a major exception. I believe the rules should specify "no magnum caliber rifle cartridges". This will give hunters many options including very popular hunting calibers such as 30-30, 270, and 30-06. However given the landscape in Indiana there is no need for magnum rifle calibers. Thank you for your consideration.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:46:26 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Carol Zurschmiede  <b>City</b> Georgetown <b>County</b> HARRISON <b>State</b> IN  <b>Organization (optional)</b> 1956  <b>E-Mail Address</b> WhiskeyRunsCZ@live.com  <b>Comments</b> I'm in favor of the new changes to the high power rifle's being used for the taking of white tail deer in Indiana. We need to keep up with Kentucky's Fish &amp; Wildlife Service, &amp; allow the same firearm caliber's that they do. You can hunt squirrel's with a cannon if you choose, but only shot guns, 44's, 410's ect. for white tail's? We need to get with the program people.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/5/2014 9:56:42 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Charles A. Johnson</p>

**City** Corydon County HARRISON State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** charliej@portative.net

**Comments** Adopt these changes due to the use of inline muzzle loaders are already high power rifle equivalent. Neighboring states already use these proposed rifles without high danger rates.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:02:38 PM

**Commenter Name** Richard Tomich

**City** La Porte County LAPORTE State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rwtomich1@yahoo.com

**Comments** I would like to comment on the use of high power rifles for hunting deer. I am in favor of use of high power rifles for hunting deer. I believe it may reduce the number of deer that are wounded, run off, and later die never to be retrieved.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:08:03 PM

**Commenter Name** Evan Zimmerman

**City** West Point County TIPPECANOE State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Hunththis00@hotmail.com

**Comments** I am strongly opposed to allowing high powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. It is unsafe for myself and many other hunters because of the growing number of hunters and the shrinking amounts of land to hunt on. As the amount of ground decreases there are more hunters in a close proximity and it is already unsafe at times. There have been numerous times the sun has come up and I have seen multiple orange hats from my stand leaving no one with a safe shot. Too many hunters do not realize what what lies beyond their target currently and there is no need to add add rifle that can shoot 500 plus yards. Too many hunters sit on the ground or in a blind that will not be safe if these new rules are adopted. I have yet to talk with any hunters I have encountered that think that allowing rifles is a safe idea. Please reject this proposal and keep hunting in Indiana safe.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 10:45:29 PM

**Commenter Name** Sara Unger

**City** Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** liz.unger9410@gmail.com

**Comments** I oppose the high powered rifle rule.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 11:44:38 PM

**Commenter Name** Dustin M Bausch

**City** swayzee County GRANT State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** 1whoshakes@gmail.com

**Comments** Allowing the use of .243 and up would be crazy in northern indiana. I could see this possible in southern part. A rule I would like to see used would allowing 1 antlered buck that has at least 4 points on each antler to be taken. This being the whole hunting season. Using this rule for government properties would produce much more trophy white tale.

**Comment Received** 12/5/2014 11:47:59 PM

**Commenter Name** Brendon bright

**City** madison County JEFFERSON State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bright247@hotmail.com

**Comments** I do not want high powered rifles to be legal for deer hunting due to numerous safety concerns.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 12:22:06 AM

**Commenter Name** Keith Smith

**City** ramsey County HARRISON State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** hoosier71.ks@gmail.com

**Comments** My name is Keith Smith, I am 43 years old and a lifelong resident and fisherman in Indiana and I would like to comment on the proposed rule change to the panfish bag limit(312 IAC 9-7-14). I understand the need for a bag limit on Bluegill and I honestly think there should be one but, I feel that a combined 25 fish limit isnt the right answer. I think the smaller lakes in the state would benefit from a limit such as this. I dont have many choices for good panfishing where I live. John Haye in Salem and Celina, Tipsaw and Indian lakes in Perry county are really the only lakes close enough to me that I can drive to for a day of fishing and not spend a fortune in gas. They are small lakes and would probably benefit from this type of bag limit. But i also am lucky enough to be able to take vacation in may and usually make a trip to Dogwood every year and with a limit of only 25 fish I dont feel it would be worth the drive to do that. I dont expect to go there and catch 100 fish but I feel 50 or so would be better. I know a separate limit on bluegill and redear may be hard to enforce but I feel it would be better. Maybe a 50 fish limit no more than 25 can be redear or something. I dont get to do much fishing other than on vacation and I guess I feel the people lucky enough to live closer to the lakes would have an advantage and probably still be able to keep just as many fish as they always have where as it would keep me from making some fishing trips that I normally would make. I have seen the redear population in Celina seemingly disappear over the last 2 or 3 years and think that the redear limit on these smaller lakes (150 acres or smaller) should be dropped to 20 or something. I love fishing in this state and always will but if the bag limit is only 25 fish I think I might have to change my vacation plans and fish somewhere else. Thank you very much for this opportunity and please consider something other than a flat 25 fish limit.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 3:29:05 AM

**Commenter Name** Jerry Adams

<p><b>City</b> Rushville <b>County</b> RUSH <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> jadamstaxidermy@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I do not feel this change is a good move for the state of Indiana. There are plenty of very capable weapons that are already allowed. As a Taxidermist, I see and interact with a vast array of "Sportsmen". While I do agree with the concept of the 2nd amendment, there are clearly a large number of people who are not responsible enough, or are not intelligent enough to use those weapons safely. Every year, I am baffled by some of the things I see and some of the stories I hear from customers and potential customers. It makes me fear going to the woods myself. By adding high powered Rifles with multiple shot capabilities, I feel that public safety will be jeopardized. In my opinion, this change is being implemented with the expectation that a large number of sportman will go out and purchase new hunting rifles, which in turn will generate more tax dollars for the state. Trading off public safety merely to increase tax dollars is not only reckless, it's criminal.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 6:27:20 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Larry Westerhouse  <b>City</b> Monticello <b>County</b> WHITE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> lpwesterhouse@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I support the use of high-powered rifles in hunting deer.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 7:27:22 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brent Headland  <b>City</b> Dunkirk <b>County</b> DELAWARE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> bmheadland@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I support centerfire rifles being allowed in Indiana.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 8:14:41 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Aaron Retter  <b>City</b> Ridgeville <b>County</b> RANDOLPH <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> aaronretter.nwtf@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I would like to see them allow the use of rifles during Indiana deer season  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 8:16:08 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Eric Drexler  <b>City</b> Palmyra <b>County</b> HARRISON <b>State</b> Indiana (IN)  <b>Organization (optional)</b> 12800 Crawford Rd  <b>E-Mail Address</b> deerhunter@live.com  <b>Comments</b> Indiana doesn't have to be like other States. The examples comparing a muzzle loader with high power rifles, they are no close. I hope and pray that this is not about making more \$\$\$\$.  (NO HIGH POWER RIFLE SEASON IN MAY STATE)  Thanks Eric  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 8:44:21 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Joseph Kelley  <b>City</b> Angola <b>County</b> STEUBEN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> sirjosephthecitizen@aol.com  <b>Comments</b> Concerning the changes proposed to Deer hunting regulations an the firearms requirments section I think rifles should have a minimum barrel length of 16 inches and semi automatic rifles used should have a magazine capacity of 5 rounds  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 9:12:34 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> John Shaw  <b>City</b> GREENFIELD <b>County</b> HANCOCK <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> j0k5@comcast.net  <b>Comments</b> To the rule change on legal firearms for deer hunting. I see no reason that a high powered rifle should not be legal as the firearms that are legal now ie. handgun calibers for rifles and wildcat calibers. These have close to the same capabilities as the the high powered rifles that could be used to take large game.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 9:15:59 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Gary Scott  <b>City</b> Linton <b>County</b> GREENE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> gary.scott@northsidemachine.com  <b>Comments</b> I do not understand the reason for allowing a high powered rifle for deer hunting? I feel the herd is being managed very well with the current rules, in fact I have seen fewer deer this year than I have in many years before. I would not want to be 300 yds on the other side of a field, and someone that does not know I am there on the other side with a .300 Win Mag. The rule is too open for people to get hurt.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 9:28:09 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> timothy trabel  <b>City</b> guilford <b>County</b> DEARBORN <b>State</b> in  <b>E-Mail Address</b> trabel@etczone.com</p>

**Comments** High powered rifles should not be permitted for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 9:36:04 AM

**Commenter Name** A. Trice Berkley, III

**City** Elkhart **County** ELKHART **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** Cellistharpsichordist@yahoo.ca

**Comments** I would like to see Ruffed Grouse hunting eliminated in Indiana per the new rule.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 9:46:43 AM

**Commenter Name** thomas r hodnett

**City** columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** tom.hodnett225@gmail.com

**Comments** after studding rabbit reproduction habits I with draw my support for the hunting of rabbits till the end of February ! the breeding season for rabbits could start as soon as the middle of January ! rabbits population are on the rebound, no need to set that back.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 9:48:42 AM

**Commenter Name** Justin Sturgeon

**City** Versailles **County** RIPLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** justinsturgeon@gmail.com

**Comments** I do not feel that opening the rifle season up to more conventional rifles is a good thing. I am not concerned with someone using a rifle that is capable of firing at 3000 fps. Even though technically a 50 bmg would be legal to shoot deer. I know there is argument that myself and other sportsman have been hunting with "wildcat" cartridges comparable to the 358 win. My concern is the uneducated adrenaline junkies with the "pray and spray" hunting tactics using AK 46'...Mini 30 ' s with high capacity magazines. The forest is already filled with a high number of people trying out for the next Rambo movie giving real sportsman a bad name. I am not opposed to a modification similar to the proposal but it needs some refinement.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 9:57:08 AM

**Commenter Name** Eric Ditmars

**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** editmars@frontier.com

**Comments** I do not agree with the proposed rule 312 iac 9-3-3. The rifle amendment

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 10:17:07 AM

**Commenter Name** Dave Smith

**City** Fremont **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** das241@hotmail.com

**Comments** Please remove the addition of high powered rifles from 312 IAC 9-3-3 .

These weapons are not needed to hunt and control our deer in terrain with in the borders of our great state of Indiana.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 10:45:50 AM

**Commenter Name** Roger Cooke

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rec3indy@hotmail.com

**Comments** I support the proposed changes for deer hunting. I am very glad to see the the proposed suspension of grouse season. I personally stopped hunting them about 5 or 6 years ago because their numbers significantly declined in the area I was hunting. Even with no hunting pressure on the grouse it could take a several of years before their population could again support hunting pressure. I also support the changes on nuisance animals, especially Coyotes.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 11:24:56 AM

**Commenter Name** William C Anderson

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** blanderson3att@att.net

**Comments** The long time use of shotguns with deer slugs have provided a good indication of safety of weapons with this general range in Indiana. It provides a good limit for evaluating potential other firearms that could be used for deer hunting. It would be ill advised to authorize weapons use with substantially more range and leatheality than the 12 Gauge Shotgun. I believe that these weapons represent a serious threat to hunter safety in the relatively congested Indiana hunting areas. The fact that rounds could end up with lethal velocities well beyond line of site would jeopardize non-hunters and animals who are outside the hunting area but within the lethal area of the rounds fired. Given that most deer are killed in Indiana within 50 yards of the hunter, the addition of high power rifles would not benefit hunters.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 12:28:27 PM

**Commenter Name** Steven Neher

**City** HUNTERTOWN **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** none

**E-Mail Address** sneher@peoplepc.com

**Comments** 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting

I do not support Sec. 3. (d)

>>> (4) A rifle must fire a cartridge that meets the following specifications:

(A) Fire a bullet of three hundred fifty-seven thousandths (.357) two hundred fortythree thousandths (.243) of an inch diameter or larger.

(B) Have a minimum case length of one and sixteen-hundredths (1.16) inches.

(C) Have a maximum case length of one and eight-tenths (1.8) inches. <<<

I feel there should be a maximum magazine capacity of 6 rounds for all rifles. This is a hunting situation not defensive and the large cap mags that will be available should not be needed to harvest deer. Migratory bird hunting is limited to 3 shots so I do not see where this small change to the code would cause any hardship to sportsman. I currently hunt with a Marlin 1894 in .44 Mag with a 10 round magazine which I only load 5 rounds. Even when I hunted with a shotgun I have never emptied the 5 shots I had available to me. When a maximum capacity is written into this amendment I will support it.

**Comment Received 12/6/2014 1:05:03 PM**

**Commenter Name** Richard Kuhns

**City** Nappanee **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** richardkuhns38@yahoo.com

**Comments** Hi

**Comment Received 12/6/2014 1:12:16 PM**

**Commenter Name** LARRY TODD STARK

**City** BROWNSTOWN **County** JACKSON **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** tstart14@hotmail.com

**Comments** I believe deer population is way more than adequate for the use of high powered rifles with a bullet diameter of atleast .243 or larger and I agree with all the other changes also

**Comment Received 12/6/2014 1:21:06 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jess Jessup

**City** Waterloo **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Mr.

**E-Mail Address** 17Chap@gmail.com

**Comments** The allowance of all high-power center fire rifle cartridges for Indiana deer hunting is fool hearty and dangerous. Indiana is too densely populated for these cartridges. Your justification statement about muzzle loaders is a best-case scenario if even possible. It is certainly not the norm. I do not want the fields flooded with legitimate long range rifles. Also, remember this is during rabbit and bird season. The next field may have other hunters.

Bad idea!

**Comment Received 12/6/2014 2:57:05 PM**

**Commenter Name** Steve Davis

**City** Wadesville **County** POSEY **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** cloudywing1@wildblue.net

**Comments** Regarding 40 312 IAC 9-7-10 Sunfish:

If I understand correctly, this change will make it so that Red Ear will NOT be the only bag-limit sunfish, and all sunfish will be limited. I am extremely opposed to this change because almost every fisherman I know hates sunfish and consider them a nuisance, especially the small ones. I, on the other hand, am willing to help reduce these nuisance fish by keeping and eating virtually every sunfish I catch. This means I don't stunt the population by selecting only the large fish, AND I help reduce the numbers. I see no management value in limiting sunfish harvesting unless someone is catching vast numbers by netting etc., and even then only if this is seen to be negatively affecting lake balance. I certainly have not seen any scarcity of sunfish. If a bag limit must be adopted I would much prefer a number of at least 100, preferably 200.

**Comment Received 12/6/2014 3:30:16 PM**

**Commenter Name** Kara koontz

**City** Churubusco **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Swampplabs@aol.com

**Comments** 312 IAC 9-3-3: Makes the following changes governing deer hunting equipment: These changes are very dangerous in my opinion, There are too many congested areas to be using high powered rifles to deer hunt! There are far more deer hunters than coyote hunters so using that for an example or comparisons is not accurate or responsible! Either is using a smokeless muzzleloader because only few are available and no one is using them! There are too many hunters who don't practice with their equipment and just go out during firearms and blast away! I could not imagine what could happen with hunters thinking they can shoot over 500 yards at deer standing at the top of a hill and not knowing what's on the other side! Also, with all the deer tags available and deer being killed and the EHD that hit the herd hard, we hardly see the deer we use too! If the DNR does get the rule change then I would hope they will cut the firearms season in half.

Ohio, Illinois, Iowa and Kentucky don't have near the amount of days to firearm hunt as Indiana does! Hopefully the DNR will listen to the people and understand our concerns! Thanks for the opportunity to voice my families opinions and concerns!

**Comment Received 12/6/2014 3:41:05 PM**

<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Steven Parr  <b>City</b> Leavenworth <b>County</b> CRAWFORD <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> sparr4.sp@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I think hunting with high powered rifles is a good idea in most areas some restrictions will be needed in more urban zones.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 4:10:55 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jessica Felton  <b>City</b> Muncie <b>County</b> DELAWARE <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Gruntworkwildlife@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> Expanding use of high-powered rifles during deer season? -HELL NO!  Extending length of firearms season in urban zones? -HELL NO!  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 5:19:09 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Chip Bedinger  <b>City</b> Kingman <b>County</b> FOUNTAIN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Bedingerchip@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I think if we go to the use of high powered rifle, it should be limited to land owners only. I personally have a 243, and with light grain bullet it is deadly at 400 yards plus. It kinda scares me that we r going to get someone hurt, if allowed anywhere. Has any one looked into 3030? This round was made for deer. And has about 100 yard range. I think it be much better choice. Thank u for allowing us the hunters for our comments.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 5:27:53 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Matt Weimer  <b>City</b> Pittsboro <b>County</b> HENDRICKS <b>State</b> INDIANA  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mweimer1@indy.rr.com  <b>Comments</b> I don't support the use of rifles during deer season for safety reasons. High powered rifle bullets travel too far.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 5:37:52 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> perry kauffman  <b>City</b> topeka <b>County</b> LAGRANGE <b>State</b> in  <b>E-Mail Address</b> pkauffman@lifestylelrv.com  <b>Comments</b> I think we better put a limit on how large a caliber rifle can be used. we dont need people hunting with a 308 , 7mm, or 300 Win MAG. need to take a serious look at ALL these large calibers before just making a general rules change. great job at at going with the 243 as a starting point  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 6:36:39 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Nicholas Carr  <b>City</b> Saint Joe <b>County</b> DEKALB <b>State</b> IN.  <b>E-Mail Address</b> novaman51@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> As an experienced hunter, there is NO good reason to allow high powered rifles to be used during firearms deer season. I've been deer hunting since the season was opened in the 1960's and haven't had any trouble getting my deer with a shotgun. I've hunted deer in MN. and WI, with a high powered rifle , and the density of people in the areas where that's legal are nothing like most of IN&gt; The thought of having some of the people who deer hunt now, out there with a high powered rifle is truly scary. They're enough of a danger with a shotgun with slugs. I believe the number of wasted deer will increase, because of "long" shots, with no follow up to recover deer who run off, as well as the number of deer poached by unethical people will increase. There are too many "marginal" hunters out there now when it comes to taking "bad " shots, to arm them with a high powered rifle and let them take even worse shots, without any concern for what's beyond the deer I see NO reason to allow high powered rifles in IN. for both safety and ethical reasons. if someone compares other states to IN., let them look at the restricted zones and population densities and compare those areas to ours. Where ther's more people in rural and town areas, shotguns only are allowed. MI. and WI. are good examples of the split zones, based on people densities and the amount of ground area available to hunt. Please DO NOT allow deer hunting with high powered rifles in IN!!   Thank You  Nicholas Carr  Sport ID # 902DDE8224  Customer ID # 13627  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 6:59:39 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> John Reuter Jr  <b>City</b> Dillsboro <b>County</b> RIPLEY <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Jreuterjr72@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I fully support the use of high powered rifles. I have hunted Kentucky with rifles for years and enjoyed it very much. I believe it will bring in more non-resident hunters that means more money.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 7:04:35 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Matthew Crowe</p>

**City** bloomfield **County** GREENE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mattcrw@hotmail.com

**Comments** I believe that high powered rifles should be allowed in Indiana due to the fact that modern muzzleloaders are nearly as powerfull as high powered rifles, that the use of high powered rifles would be more economical than some of our current options, and that it would give more opportunities for younger less experienced hunters.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 7:18:09 PM

**Commenter Name** Claude Reynolds

**City** Williamsburg **County** WAYNE **State** in

**E-Mail Address** Bohunter145@aol.com

**Comments** No need for high power rifles in Indiana. After hearing the people unload there shotguns at deer I would hate to hear them unload a High power rifle. To many hunters in the state with increasing number of hunters is not a good combo. I hear people all the time unloaded there guns shooting at deer and probably not even thing of whats beyond the animal there shooting at. Go to Brookville lake opening weekend of Firearm and listen to that and you would think again of allowing high power rifles. I only bow hunt and muzzleloader hunt Brookville lake when I feel like going on a hike. But mainly hunt private and still hear the same on opening morning/weekend.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 7:23:45 PM

**Commenter Name** Dan Shoop

**City** South Bend **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dlshoop@hughes.net

**Comments** My name is Dan Shoop and I live in St Joseph County. I'm writing today to add my comment on the proposed rule to allow high powered rifles for deer hunting. I'm not just a casual hunter. Hunting is a large part of my life and something my wife says goes beyond an obsession to the point of an addiction. I hunt with archery equipment and firearms. I hunt upland birds, waterfowl and big game. I have hunted elk in Wyoming and Montana and mule deer in Colorado and deer in multiple states. Hunting is very important to me and that is why I'm concerned about the use of high powered rifles for deer in this area. While hunting in Indiana, I'm usually able to harvest multiple deer per year. The deer that I do harvest are not my only opportunities. I'm very selective about the deer I harvest, whether it's a mature buck or mature doe. If a little effort is put into deer hunting it is not hard to harvest a deer. Therefore, I do not see the need to use a high power rifle in this area. During firearm season, I use a rifle in a 44 magnum caliber, which was made legal in Indiana several years ago. I agreed with that rule change because it allowed the use of a weapon that had increased accuracy over a shotgun, without greatly exceeding the range. It also improved the economics of sighting in weapons because center-fired ammo is generally less expensive than shotgun slugs. I hoped this would improve that accuracy of my fellow hunters. I consider my 44 magnum rifle a 100 yard gun, even with hand loaded ammo. Only rarely do I need to take a shot even close to 100 yards to harvest a deer. I don't see the need to use a high powered rifle in this area. I do not think it will increase the harvest success and I'm concerned about the safety of people trying to make long range shots at deer, just because the gun is capable of it. The background section for the proposed rules indicated that there had been no increased hunting-related accidents in states where high powered rifles are allowed. I pray this continues to be true in Indiana. I fear that the anti-hunting groups will be waiting to use the first incident involving a high powered rifle to their advantage. The background section for the proposed rules also stated that muzzleloaders that utilize smokeless gun powder are capable of shooting 500 yards. It is true that some production and custom muzzleloader can use smokeless gun powder, but I know no person that owns or uses one. All of the hunters that I talk to, and I talk to a lot of people about hunting, use a 'standard' muzzleloader with some kind of blackpower substitute and consider them a 200 yard rifle. I would guess that less than 1% of the hunters in Indiana use muzzleloader with smokeless gun powder. Conversely, if high powered rifles are made legal, I can imagine 99% of hunters using them. This is a huge change in the number of long range weapons in the field. None of the hunters I talk to about this proposed change think it is a good idea. These are the very people that would 'benefit' from the rule change. They are all concerned about the safety aspect of using high powered rifles in this area.

**Comment Received** 12/6/2014 8:15:06 PM

**Commenter Name** Brent Hoffman

**City** Silver Lake **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** NA

**E-Mail Address** hoffmanb1964@frontier.com

**Comments** Allowing the use of higher powered rifles is completely and utterly unnecessary. Current deer reduction efforts have worked very well with current hunting weapons allowed, which are already generous! In addition these high powered rifles would be extremely unsafe, I certainly would be leery of hunting out of a ground blind. Yes there are rifles being used now. However most are wildcat rounds that most hunters cannot afford. The 44's and 357's have ballistics muck like muzzleloaders, which certainly do NOT have the range of high powered rifles. WHY does anyone need to shoot over 100 maybe 150 yds? There are FAR more less proficient shooters incapable of shooting that far but given these weapons they will certainly be tempted to do so without any regard to their back stop 300 to 400 yds or farther out. I do not want that back stop to by me or one of my family members! The opening day of gun season I will typically have 20 hunters within a 700 yd circle of me, YES that is a FACT. I urge you to reconsider the use of high powered rifles, I am a hunter and have been for 32 years, but simply do NOT see the sense in creating an even more dangerous atmosphere for hunters. I have spoken with numerous other hunters and by far the majority agrees there is no need for the use of high powered rifles in Indiana. Muzzleloaders, shotguns and small rifles legal today are more than ample to deer hunt today.

<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 8:18:18 PM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> Tom Biniacki  <b>City</b> Winamac <b>County</b> PULASKI <b>State</b> In.  <b>E-Mail Address</b> tomb@pwrta.com  <b>Comments</b> Electronic registering for deer is fine for some but not for all. Choice is the key word. Charging 3.00 by phone will cause people to process their own and then just put it in the freezer. There goes your count. People are tired of being told it's this way or the highway. What of checking for disease then. If one gets 5 or six deer and no computer, then it's \$18.00 which can be used for their medications. If nothing else, voluntary registration. Things are getting more complicated and folks are leaving hunting because of that.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 8:29:27 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Richard Austin Jr  <b>City</b> Evansville <b>County</b> VANDERBURGH <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> austindk@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> The proposed Reduction firearms deer hunting dates from November - January is absurd. Most states that have health deer heard have shorter seasons than Indiana's firearms/muzzleloader. It really should be shortened.   As far as removing restrictions on rifles, I believe it is the right thing to do especially in southern Indiana. The shotguns and muzzleloaders that we have now are capable of well over 200 yards.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 8:55:38 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jeff Jones  <b>City</b> Washington <b>County</b> DAVIESS <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> jjones@rtccom.net  <b>Comments</b> I believe legalizing high powered rifles is a very bad idea. For numerous years hunters have used the normal shotgun/pistol with great success. The use of high powered rifles will increase poaching because people will buy the rifles and have access to them for poaching. I have a 16 year old daughter who loves to hunt but I will not allow her to hunt with a high powered rifle. please leave well enough alone and continue doing what has been done for years.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 9:05:02 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> john weibel  <b>City</b> Freedom <b>County</b> OWEN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>Organization (optional)</b> 1963  <b>E-Mail Address</b> pegasusmerch@live.com  <b>Comments</b> Proposed Rule Change 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for Deer Hunting d.(1) I think this is a good change in adding the 28 gauge. 4. (A) .243 or larger is a good rule change 4. (C) eliminating the maximum case length is a good idea while still not allowing the full metal jacket. (f). Deer reduction season changes for bows and arrows, also for firearms is a good idea causing less confusion.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 9:19:01 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Gene Broshears  <b>City</b> Huntsville <b>County</b> Out of State <b>State</b> Alabama  <b>Organization (optional)</b> Retired  <b>E-Mail Address</b> genebroshears@aol.com  <b>Comments</b> Being born and raised in Indiana before entry 20 years in Military and civil service 22yrs I have hunted in Georgia , Kentucky and Alabama using 30-06. My question is why restrict any rifle for hunting when any other during the year you can own and shoot a rifle without restriction What makes a rifle unsafe just because it is deer season. Please consider relief for the 30-06 as I have wounded many deer with muzzleloader shots which we not recovered. None with the rifle. Thanks for your time  Gene Broshears  256 882 1721 (non resident hunter).  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 9:32:22 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Evie Wildeman  <b>City</b> Newburgh <b>County</b> WARRICK <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Ewild8@roadrunner.com  <b>Comments</b> I oppose the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana! It takes away from the sport of hunting and would be extremely dangerous.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/6/2014 9:48:19 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Eric Koontz  <b>City</b> Muncie <b>County</b> DELAWARE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Eazy2369@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I strongly agree with this rule change! Larger caliber cartridges should be able to be used in the state of Indiana. I believe it will not further any more problems or incidences of misuse that doesn't already exist. The shotgun rounds and muzzle loader rounds can just as easy travel far distances as would bigger caliber rifles. Some the wildcat</p>



rounds out now like the .358 Hoosier or .450 bushmaster can shoot a projectile with similar ballistics to the traditional hunting rounds of 30.06 and .308 win. I hope you vote to except this rule change for the 2015 deer season! Thank you!  
**Comment Received 12/6/2014 10:42:00 PM**

**Commenter Name** Monty Walton

**City** Rising Sun **County** OHIO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Remingtonman@embarqmail.com

**Comments** I don't believe high powered rifles have a place for deer hunting in Indiana. There isn't the landscape to support such a need in our state doesn't exist for long yardage shots of this type. I feel it is a huge safety issue when I take my 2 teenage boys to the woods with me and if adopted will probably keep us at home during firearm season!

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 3:03:45 AM**

**Commenter Name** Scott Wersler

**City** Larwill **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** scott@redstarcontractmfg.com

**Comments** I oppose the rule change setting a limit on bluegill. I do not see a decrease in the amount of bluegill on the lakes and areas where I fish and feel this is an unnecessary rule change. I do not agree with the adoption of .243 caliber rifles in allowable deer hunting weapons. Granted, high power rifles can be used for other game such as coyote and wood chuck, however the number of people pursuing deer at the same time is much different, therefore for safety reason I do not support this proposed change. I also feel this may increase the range that some people have for taking deer and with our observations in the field, deer numbers are already way down from where they were only 3 years ago in our section of the state. Many hunters, farmers and landowners are commenting to me, and have been for the last three years in a row, how few deer they are seeing compared to prior years. I believe this will and is affecting license sales and participation in the sport, however I cannot confirm that at a state wide level. I also oppose the word change that mentions the repeal of lifetime licenses. I realize this rule change does not actually repeal the lifetime license, however I feel that it sets the ground work for the eventual appeal. This I strongly oppose.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 5:05:58 AM**

**Commenter Name** Tom Kasten

**City** Winamac **County** PULASKI **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tomkasten@hotmail.com

**Comments** I do not agree with the rule to allow high powered rifles. the ground her is very flat and we have very few fence rows or woods since the farmers have removed them for irrigators. I think this will create a large safety issue. Indiana is not like a lot of the western states that are sparsely populated or very hill and mountainous.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 6:41:44 AM**

**Commenter Name** Fred Shidler

**City** Monticello **County** WHITE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** shidler5310@comcast.net

**Comments** The guns we use now are very sufficient for deer hunting and high power rifles are not necessary. High power rifles will result in more wounded deer and more concerning is the potential of hurting or killing an innocent person sitting at their supper table. Some Joe blow will go to Walmart and buy his high power rifle and his hunting license and will be out scouting away. Farmers animals will be in danger now too. My vote is NO to these guns!

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 7:39:52 AM**

**Commenter Name** Roger Chastain

**City** Mitchell **County** LAWRENCE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** rtchastain@frontier.com

**Comments** Its about time rifles were made legal fro deer. There have been many people using them anyway and there were too many "special" cartridges people were modifying to get around the rules. This is way overdue and shows some intelligent input into the regulations, bot some ambiguous cartridge spec.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 7:41:15 AM**

**Commenter Name** Gib Niswander

**City** Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Indiana Resident

**E-Mail Address** gibniswander@comcast.net

**Comments** I am in favor of adopting this rule.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 8:16:24 AM**

**Commenter Name** Dan Hartman

**City** Helmsburg **County** BROWN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** hardanmi@gmail.com

**Comments** I am a veteran deer hunter who supports the expansion of legal hunting weapons to include high powered rifles.

However, I think there should be a magazine capacity restriction limiting any firearm to five rounds. Everyone knows many of the weapons that will be used if this rule is approved are AR's with high capacity magazines. To not limit any and all to 5 rounds maximum is irresponsible on the part of DNR.

<p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:25:40 AM</p> <p><b>Commenter Name</b> DENNIS KALMON  <b>City</b> Nineveh <b>County</b> JOHNSON <b>State</b> Indiana (IN)  <b>Organization (optional)</b> Centerline Plumbing  <b>E-Mail Address</b> centerlineplbg@aol.com  <b>Comments</b> I think the rule allowing high powered rifles for deer in Indiana would be very bad , Indiana has to many houses scattered in woods , high powered rifles can go way to far to be safe in Indiana  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:32:48 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Stephen Winslow  <b>City</b> Fillmore <b>County</b> PUTNAM <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> swkawinslow@lds.net  <b>Comments</b> Hunting with high power rifles is not a problem, but only with single shot or bolt action rifles, NOT automatics such as AR 15 rifles. We will have two many hunters that have no business with a auto rifle. We must think of the safety of other hunters and the general public. Putting AR 15 in the hands of some people will be asking for trouble.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:34:47 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Al Mitchel  <b>City</b> Amboy <b>County</b> MIAMI <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> amitchel@comteck.com  <b>Comments</b> In the deer hunting section the words "before its repeal" concerning the lifetime hunting and fishing license seems unnecessary. The license is no longer sold. Better wording: it is no longer sold in Indiana.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:39:08 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Ryan Buchanan  <b>City</b> Scottsburg <b>County</b> SCOTT <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> ryan.platinumproperties@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> The use of rifles should not be approved in the taking of wild game in Indiana. Many hunters are not well versed on the ballistic capability of a rifle. This could result in a greater number of hunter injuries. The use of rifles will also reduce the level of skill required to take a whitetail deer by increasing the range from which a hunter will be capable of reaching. This will increase the number of deer taken. Currently most hunters need to be within 100 yards of an antlered deer to take him with a quality shot. Rifles eliminate that degree of fair chase, thereby reducing the level of quality deer genetics.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:42:20 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Robert Cole  <b>City</b> Wabash <b>County</b> WABASH <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> robertcole929@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I am in favor of increasing the cartridge length for rifles to include 45-70's since it proven to be of no greater danger than those currently being used.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:53:12 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Mike Linette  <b>City</b> Jasper, <b>County</b> DUBOIS <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mgl0503@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> As far as using high powered rifles for deer hunting, this is hunting accidents waiting to happen. Who ever thought of this is does not have safety in mind. I live in southern Indiana and the hunter hunt " on top of each other now" and the use of "high powered rifles" is not neccessary to harvest deer. We are able to hunt with muzzlesloaders and that shoots far enough to bag a deer in the confines of the deer habitat that we have in southern Indiana. We dont need "IDIOTS" out there trying to shoot 200 to 300 yards,or even longer, and not knowing what hunters are beyoud 150 yards and shooting at a deer and possbly shooting another hunter. There are individuals know that think they can shoot 200 yards with the 44 calibers and all there are doing is wounding deer and not finding them, this is happening/ I hope that this amendment is not just a reason for revenue purposes and not thinking of the hunters safety.  thank you  Mike Linette  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:57:47 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Todd Woods  <b>City</b> Bedford <b>County</b> LAWRENCE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> tawoods1961@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> Reference 312 IAC 9-3-2 General requirements and licenses for hunting deer; I do not support any rule change that results in the potential for import into the state of non-native deer species for the purposes of hunting and particularly not high fence, canned hunting   Reference 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting in the section on Firearms ; I would support the change that would permit the use of rifles during the firearms season with one caveat that the number of cartridges for both rifle and shotgun</p>

that can be in the weapon be limited to three including one in the chamber.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:02:14 AM**

**Commenter Name** Erick Keirn

**City** Albion **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ek97fd@yahoo.com

**Comments** The proposal of allowing the use of "high powered rifles" is a huge and inexcusable mistake.

The amount of new houses and population growth in the rural areas should be the main reason not to allow this change to take place.

There are many individuals that can not control their emotions and the excitement of possibly harvesting an animal to realize the direction and the distance of travel that the projectile will go.

This could result in the death or injury of an individual that was just sitting outside.

There is also the fact that the unsafe hunter will attempt longer and riskier shots that could possibly injure someone.

This would also increase the amount of property damage caused by "stray bullets".

The DNR has made some very poor decisions lately on rule changes and this one in my opinion would be the poorest of them all!

It is time for the DNR to start listening to the people and stop taking payouts from the insurance companies to eliminate all the deer.

I have three kids that I want to be able to enjoy hunting as much as I do. I have real concerns that by the time they are mature enough to participate there will not be any deer left or there numbers will so low that the kids will loose interest and sit on the couch.

The use of "high powered rifles" is a very very bad idea!

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:05:25 AM**

**Commenter Name** Mick Ames

**City** Columbia **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** amesmick@hotmail.com

**Comments** I don't think that high powered rifles should be used to hunt deer in Indiana. There are too many risks with the close proximity between the hunter and roads, houses, and other hunters. I feel that if we allow high powered rifles that there will be an increase in accidental death and injury.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:11:25 AM**

**Commenter Name** Mick Ames

**City** Columbia **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** amesmick@hotmail.com

**Comments** I don't think that high powered rifles should be used to hunt deer in Indiana. There are too many risks with the close proximity between the hunter and roads, houses, and other hunters. I feel that if we allow high powered rifles that there will be an increase in accidental death and injury.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:12:00 AM**

**Commenter Name** Matthew Paris

**City** Frankfort **County** CLINTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mparisfarms@gmail.com

**Comments** It makes more sense to use a rifle in 7mm Rem mag than a pistol. I fully support the change to use high powered rifles. I definitely support NOT letting pistols be used with rifle calibers. There does need to be a magazine or cartridge limit for deer rifles. 10 would be sufficient.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:39:35 AM**

**Commenter Name** michael banes

**City** lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** mike\_banes02@yahoo.com

**Comments** I do not agree with allowing high powered rifles for use in taking a deer. I feel this would put myself and a lot of other hunters in harms way because there are very few places in this state where anything more than a slug gun is needed, there is not enough open land to allow for safe use of the high powered rifles.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:45:30 AM**

**Commenter Name** Ron Baker

**City** Scottsburg **County** SCOTT **State** IN.

**E-Mail Address** gloriasewperfect@mail.com

**Comments** This is about firearm rule change to allow high power rifles.....I OPPOSE this rule changel We have plenty of choices to take a deer humanly in the state. Indiana is to flat and full of houses and children playing in yards and farmers working in the fields.The firearms we have is good enough for the small patches of woods where we hunt.so safety is the main go .we do not need to take a chance on hurting hunters or houses or anything. (So please OPPOSE)

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:52:23 AM**

**Commenter Name** Andrew Malone

**City** Waveland **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** amalone35@yahoo.com

**Comments** can not understand why someone would need such a weapon for a deer. safety also comes to mind when looking at how shallow some of the wooded area's have become in the county in the past few years.

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 9:53:36 AM

**Commenter Name** Terry Heckman

**City** Michigan **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** terryheckman1@comcast.net

**Comments** From what I can understand on the new rifle law is that high powered rifles will be allowed to hunt deer next season. To be honest this is only my second season hunting deer which I have always wanted to get into and a friend of mine has got me into this sport. I am excited to partake with the HUNTING of deer and may I stress HUNTING. If this new law passes that will in my eyes take away the meaning or sport of the HUNT. There is a sense of gratitude to walk into the woods and harvest a deer with what you have learned as far as - camouflage, wind, scent control and so on. Again allowing the higher powered rifles will take away what we can teach our younger generation of how to properly hunt and experience mother nature at its best. NO TO THIS LAW!!

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 10:49:56 AM

**Commenter Name** Anthony J. Cook

**City** Cicero **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** cicero cooks@gmail.com

**Comments** I appreciate the change in rifle calibers that may be used. I believe I will be able to use my 45/70, which is a preferred heavy load, but non-lengthy traveling bullet rifle preferred in wooded areas, and loved because of its stopping power. I also love being able to use my .243 Thank you

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 11:13:58 AM

**Commenter Name** Steve Phillips

**City** Cloverdale **County** PUTNAM **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** steve1965@live.com

**Comments** I think the 223 caliber rifle should be allowed, it is a reasonable hunting rifle that will humanely kill a deer, and with the hollow point or a ballistic tip the bullet disintegrates after it comes in contact with anything even a small twig

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 11:19:24 AM

**Commenter Name** James Ligda

**City** Michigan **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** inhonker1@yahoo.com

**Comments** Are you people out of your mind? Have all of you visited the northern part of the state? You can't shoot a bb gun without hitting a piece of someone else's property. Farm frontage has been sold and thousands if not millions of homes now line county roads. If you must pass the caliber changes please exclude the northern tier counties. Hunting public land during firearm deer season is dangerous enough with shotguns and muzzleloaders.

James Ligda

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 11:19:46 AM

**Commenter Name** Derek Spath

**City** Tell City **County** PERRY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** derekspath@att.net

**Comments** Here in Southern Indiana we do not need people running around with high powered rifles.

With the small tracks of land that most people own (30-40 acres) and the number of hunters that occupy these properties, you are just asking for someone to get injured or even killed. With the terrain in southern Indiana there is no reason for an individual to be able to shoot 500 yds! Most places you hunt here you would be lucky to get a 100 yd shot. Also there are not enough responsible gun hunters out there to possess a high powered rifle. People will be trying to shoot across fields at long distance (shots that they are not capable of making) with no regards to whom or what may be on the other side of that field. I personally don't feel like having bullets whiz past me! I also think it will increase the number of poachers. If a high powered rifle is legal then what stops a poacher from shooting a deer at night and checking it in the next day as if it was shot legally! Conservation Officers won't be able to tell by the bullet holes anymore. So I hope and pray that this rule does not go through! Not just for my safety but the safety of every hunter out there. Also maybe the commission should start looking a little more closely at other states deer management. States like Iowa, Illinois, and Ohio where bigger deer are produced every year. These states have a great management plans which bring in a lot of money from out of state hunters. Get our management right for bigger bucks and raise the out of state tags! Ever think of a lottery! The best thing that has ever been done, and I applaud the commission on, is the one buck rule. That was a move in the right direction to make Indiana a great deer hunting state. We need to keep moving in that direction.

Also the doe permits need to be reduced! There are not near as many deer anymore as there should be. Lets move forward and not backwards Indiana!

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 11:32:09 AM**

**Commenter Name** Robert C Garbers

**City** Alexandria **County** MADISON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** cgarbers@comcast.net

**Comments** Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the DNR rule changes. My hunting privileges in IN are very important to me.

As a lifetime license holder, I am always a little confused of what my bag limits are related to the various deer seasons. Section 4 312 IAC 9-3-2 (u) is understood that I am allowed to take 1 antlered deer in all seasons from October through January. However, I am not clearly understanding the rule related to the maximum number of antlerless deer that a lifetime license holder can take as a total per season type, and per year. I suggest a section to outline bag limit per license type more clearly.

Section 5 312 IAC 9-3-3 (d) (4) (c) authorizes use of high powered rifles in IN. I strongly agree with this change. Safety and Security for hunters and deer will be greatly improved by this change.

Section 5 312 IAC 9-3-3 (g) requires no permanent tree or ground blinds on state property. I fully understand what a permanent tree stand is but there could be some difference of opinion of what a permanent ground blind is. Stacking up sticks against a tree is lasting for more than a season but in my opinion, this should not be considered a permanent ground blind. To prevent confusion, I suggest more definition of limitations of permanent ground blinds.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 12:24:01 PM**

**Commenter Name** Timothy Frederick

**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Mr.

**E-Mail Address** tfrederick69@hotmail.com

**Comments** I do not agree with the use of a bullet of .243 or larger. I think it is unsafe to allow this to be approved in Indiana. Indiana has rural residential areas that are not conducive to using rifles such as the .243 or larger.

As a hunter, please do not approve this portion of the rule change.

Sincerely,

Tim Frederick

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 1:19:21 PM**

**Commenter Name** Christopher Gruener

**City** Bargersville **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** 1963

**E-Mail Address** gruener.chris@yahoo.com

**Comments** Anyone who goes and hunts on public land should know that you hear a lot of shots going off, sometimes multiple times at one deer. NOW! ask yourself would you want someone shooting like that with a high powered rifle in a public hunting area? Allowing rifles is going to get someone hurt or killed, you will see more deer wounded because you will see more people taking unethical shots ( to far to shoot at a deer) that don't really care if they make a clean kill or not. Indiana does not have the rolling hills, and flat planes like out west were it is a good place for rifles. Indiana has already made it to easy to kill deer in this state, so easy I see more and more people who do not have any respect for their fellow hunters in the woods or the game that they are pursuing. The only thing most of the time with the new hunters are people who want to kill something. Hunting in this state is getting to the point its not worth going out anymore. Adding a rifle season is a bad call, has anyone ever stood in walmart or gander mountain the night before shotgun season. Shotguns are being bought that night and used the next day with no practice. Rifles will be no different, thats why you will see more people getting hurt, deer getting wounded, and more property damage. Do not pass this, if anything extend shotgun season a little longer or make a late season shotgun season with a separate tag like the state does with the spring and fall turkey seasons.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 2:01:38 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jason Meredith

**City** Paoli **County** ORANGE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tmcmredith@frontier.com

**Comments** We don't need high powered rifles for deer hunting. It is not give anything to the sport. I believe it is the state trying to create revenue through taxes on gun and ammo sales. Do something for the tax payers and serious hunter like bringing back lifetime licenses.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 2:37:31 PM**

**Commenter Name** Tim Chaffee

**City** Brookville **County** DEARBORN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** tchaffee@etczone.com

**Comments** I am against changing the rifle calibers. The current calibers have only been in use for one year, that is hardly enough time to evaluate the bullets in use now without adding more calibers. Also, the more smaller calibers create a possible unsafe situation in the deer woods with the proposed calibers travelling a longer distance than the ones in use

now.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 2:52:57 PM**

**Commenter Name** Mel Wildeman

**City** Wadesville **County** POSEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mwildeman@tds.net

**Comments** I am strongly opposed to allowing the use of high powered rifles for hunting deer or any other species in the state of Indiana. While it may be possible to safely use a high powered rifle in rural areas, the range of these weapons is far too great for all other areas with residences and other buildings and roadways.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 2:55:37 PM**

**Commenter Name** Matt ZurSchmiede

**City** Corydon **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** zschmiede@frontier.com

**Comments** Add a magazine capacity limitation to the new rifle regulation, not to exceed 10 rounds.

Thank you

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 4:23:04 PM**

**Commenter Name** Matthew Stevens

**City** Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** matt85741@gmail.com

**Comments** I am strongly against the use of high-powered rifles!! There is no reason to need to shoot at a deer that is so far away that you need a high-powered rifle to hit it. This is a horrible idea due to the fact that there are so many hunters that hunt on top of other hunters and the distance of travel for high-powered rifles could lead to someone getting shot in the woods or in their home! The IDNR need to seriously think about some of the bills they are putting out there!! Also the deer limit being increased to 10 is insane too!! I have been a hunter for almost 20 years and have never seen it higher than last year at 7. I have been out almost everyday since Oct. and have hardly seen anything and have heard similar people say the same thing. Please reconsider these bills and take them off the table. Thank You for your time

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 4:54:20 PM**

**Commenter Name** Chester Coon

**City** Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ccoon10@gmail.com

**Comments** I like the idea of being able to use high powered rifles in Indiana. I think the modern black powder rifle has changed how far we can shoot anyway. Maybe an idea to think about would be to require people to hunt from a tree stand while using a high powered rifle. This might be hard to enforce, but theoretically, it would make things safer by changing the trajectory of the the shot.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 4:54:26 PM**

**Commenter Name** Forrest Fleming

**City** Palmyra **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bigborehkk@gmail.com

**Comments** It is about time the DNR opened up deer season to all rifles. Just as the nay-sayers said there would be all kinds of problems with limited rifles and in-line muzzle loaders when they were allowed, I am sure they will rend their clothes over this too, but there have been no problems and I see this rule change as a welcome event.

Now if they would just allow baiting. If the DNR is serious about reducing the number of deer/vehicle collisions then allowing baiting would be one way to up the numbers. If one lives in a rural area as I do then one sees on a daily basis how dangerous deer/vehicle collisions can be and how often it happens. From October to January each year it is wholesale slaughter in our area along Hwy 135 and 150.

Rifles, baiting, whatever it takes. The herd size needs reducing, not only to reduce the number of collisions but also for the health of the herd. I have seen so many scrub bucks on my game cameras, and I don't mean yearlings but mature bucks that are spikes or fork horns, that I would welcome any means necessary to cull these sub standard bucks from the herd so we can begin to get real quality animals breeding our does. A nice mature buck is not going to be caught at a deer feeding station during shooting hours, only the sub par bucks are going to make that mistake, and only once with any luck.

A least an unlimited rifle season is a good start.

Thank you.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 5:09:10 PM**

**Commenter Name** Michael Stonerock

**City** Farmland **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mstonerock@comcast.net

**Comments** Hopefully changes in the Fish and Wildlife: Biennial Rule Amendment Package are not all or nothing. The adoption of center fire rifles with necked cases (i.e. .243, 30 calibers such as 30.06 or .308) is a decision that is fraught with hazards. At least here in Randolph it is too flat and there are too many houses in the area to shoot 150 grain bullet at 3200 feet per second (or faster). Additionally property lines are tight in the area - the ability to shoot out to 350 plus yards will encourage non-ethical hunters to shoot at game on land they have no permission for causing additional problems for an

already over taxed force of DNR officers. I believe we will also see an extreme spike in poaching due to the long reach of some of the rifles involved. I also believe we will see more injuries and even deaths due to thousands of these firearms being brought into the field. I believe the DNR should seriously consider the cons of this change in the rules for the state of Indiana. There are enough problems in the deer hunting arena without introducing additional hazards. Thank you

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 5:17:59 PM

**Commenter Name** Jesse DeWitt

**City** Hamilton **County** STEUBEN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** dewijw01@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am voicing my comments in regards to the proposed rule changes governing rifle cartridge adoption for IN. Upon reading the proposal posted on the IN.gov website, allowing the use of high powered rifles in Indiana is dangerous and a poor idea. The use of shotguns and muzzleloaders has been in effect due to the flat open land and population density. Over the years, the population density of humans has not declined. I agree that muzzleloaders have become flatter shooting and more accurate, yet they are far from a high powered rifle such as a .270 or .300 Win Mag. I do acknowledge that these are two popular rifle calibers but there is much more powerful and flatter shooting calibers such as Weatherby's line of magnums. These highly powerful calibers, combined with a wide selection of light & heavy bullets with a high ballistic coefficient, has made rifles much more deadly than in the past. You can simply use a number of different ballistic calculators online to see the difference. I understand that these rifle calibers are legal in nearby states such as Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Northern Michigan. However, these are poor arguments for legalization in Indiana. These particular locations are much much more hilly, have dense forests, and less dense human populations. I also acknowledge that high powered rifles are legal for non deer game. This is doable for the time in which these hunts take place, at night typically or during winter months while no other hunters are in the field. The number of deer hunters is much higher compared to any other game animal. I also believe that the sport has grown causing more hunters to be in the woods during the deer seasons. Personally, I hunt around 40 acres of private land that has up to 7 hunters on it at one time during the deer firearms season. There is also a 20 acre wooded lot that is connect with roughly 3-5 hunters on it. Combine these two with 3 more hunters on the fence line. That equals: 13-15 hunters on a combined 60 acre parcel. I believe this is indicative of the rest of Indiana. Deer hunting where allowed on private land has become crowded for some. Allowing the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana is dangerous and irresponsible. You are wanting to reduce the deer herd to protect motorists and farmers, yet you are willing to put hunters and civilians at risk in order to accomplish this goal. I feel as though you have been so blinded by the eradication of the deer herd that you have lost sight of your original reasoning. I will admit that my trophy room would be much larger with the use rifles, but it is the challenge that makes me a hunter and not the instant gratification and ease of rifle equipment. I believe that you are in contact with state officials next to us such as Illinois and Ohio, but we need to continue the current firearms regulations like that of our neighbors. The Indiana DNR has stated that the current deer population is what they plan to maintain, I see no need to make this rifle amendment to accomplish a further reduction. The risks involved are much too high.

Thank you for your time,  
Jesse DeWitt

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 5:18:55 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael Jaworski

**City** South Bend **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mjaworski75@aol.com

**Comments** I am urging the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to adopt the proposed changes to the IAC sections as outlined within the proposed LAC Document # 14-453. I am especially in favor of the following: 312 IAC 9-3-3, which would allow the use of rifles having a bullet diameter of .243 or larger, 312 IAC 9-4-11 which would create a Wild turkey season of equal length for all designated counties, 312 9-7-10: establishing a daily bag limit for all species of Sunfish, 312 9-3-12 Allowing the taking of Coyotes year around, 312 IAC9-3-15 allowing the taking of Mute Swans on private property. My only question is : Does this apply to private property bordering any body of water within the State? PLEASE ADVISE!

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 5:34:55 PM

**Commenter Name** Lisa Jaworski

**City** South Bend **County** ST. JOSEPH **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** dewfanlisa@aol.com

**Comments** Natural Resources Commission:

I would like to offer my approval of the LSA #14-453 document changing some of the hunting and fishing laws in Indiana. This is per 312 IAC9...all points have been well revised or initiated. I would especially like to emphasize my approval of the following: #9-4-11 for turkey, #9-7-10 about sunrise, #9-7-14 about fish bag limits, #9-3-12 for coyotes, and #9-3-15 for swans on private property.

Thank you for providing this opportunity for public comment. Yours, Lisa A. Jaworski

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 5:50:33 PM

**Commenter Name** Leon S. Davis

**City** Wanatah **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

<p><b>E-Mail Address</b> leon_js@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I am all for the rule change concerning rifles being used to hunt deer if it includes the following restrictions....No more than 5 rounds in the magazine of the weapon being used, the hunter may only shoot from an elevated stand/ platform, and the solid hunter's orange requirement be increased to cover fifty percent of the body.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 6:37:44 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brian D. Noojin</p> <p><b>City</b> Saint John <b>County</b> LAKE <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> bnhoosier@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I sincerely object to the proposed high power rifle cartridge use into the Indiana deer hunting season. I believe this is unsafe for all indiana citizens especially for those living in the northern part of the state. If you look at states like Wisconsin and Michigan, high powered rifle use is restricted to areas of the state that are hilly or extremely heavily wooded. I intend to notify my state senator and state congressman as well as Governor Pence. In addition, I feel this will add unnecessary stress to an already over stressed deer herd. Indiana should look to contracting our firearms season and move them beyond the peak deer breeding time such as December. Again, please do not adopt the use of high powered rifles in our deer season. Thank You! Brian</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 6:53:13 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brian D. Noojin</p> <p><b>City</b> Saint John <b>County</b> LAKE <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> bnhoosier@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I sincerely object to the proposed high power rifle cartridge use into the Indiana deer hunting season. I believe this is unsafe for all indiana citizens especially for those living in the northern part of the state. If you look at states like Wisconsin and Michigan, high powered rifle use is restricted to areas of the state that are hilly or extremely heavily wooded. I intend to notify my state senator and state congressman as well as Governor Pence. In addition, I feel this will add unnecessary stress to an already over stressed deer herd. Indiana should look to contracting our firearms season and move them beyond the peak deer breeding time such as December. Again, please do not adopt the use of high powered rifles in our deer season. Thank You! Brian</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 6:57:48 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> bob byers</p> <p><b>City</b> portland <b>County</b> JAY <b>State</b> indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> elhd851@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I like the change to the rifle regulation for deer hunting. I would certainly like to see it pass.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 7:13:02 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> bob byers</p> <p><b>City</b> portland <b>County</b> JAY <b>State</b> indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> elhd851@yahoo.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I like the change to the rifle regulation for deer hunting. I would certainly like to see it pass.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 7:14:16 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Richard Emery</p> <p><b>City</b> Portland <b>County</b> JAY <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> remerystikbows@netzero.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I can not agree with the proposed high power rifle season it is completely absurd. We have the worst population of deer since I started hunting them in 1980. How do you ever expect to introduce new and young hunters to hunt something that you have to go out 55 times just to see one deer?</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 7:41:06 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Lana Cox</p> <p><b>City</b> Portland <b>County</b> JAY <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> lclevenger10@ivytech.edu</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I do NOT agree with the new proposal for the high power rifle, I believe there will be more accidents and there are not enough deer to justify opening such a season</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 7:46:36 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Mark Ascheman</p> <p><b>City</b> Brazil <b>County</b> CLAY <b>State</b> Indiana</p> <p><b>E-Mail Address</b> mascheman@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Comments</b> I thing the rule regarding use of rifles to hunt deer should also include a restriction of the number of rounds that can fit in a magazine, clip or tube to a maximum of 5 rounds plus one in the chamber. without this restriction there will be people using magazines with a capacity of 20, 30 and 40 rounds. I believe that this many rounds in a rifle will promote unsafe and or uncontrolled firing of multiple rounds and will be a safety hazard.</p> <p><b>Comment Received</b> 12/7/2014 8:03:10 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Nathan Ralph</p> <p><b>City</b> Greenwood <b>County</b> JOHNSON <b>State</b> Indiana</p>



**E-Mail Address** nathan@nathanralph.com

**Comments** I think the rule change to allow high-powered rifles is way past due. As stated in the proposal - there is no correlation with the use of high powered rifles and higher hunting injury rates. Modern muzzle loaders are essentially high power rifles, as are shotguns with sabots like Hornady. Many of use have high powered rifles and use them in Kentucky. Some folks even find loopholes to use high powered rifle rounds in handguns. High powered rifle loads are also very capable of clean, ethical, quick kills.

I support it 100%!

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 8:29:37 PM

**Commenter Name** Nick Garwick

**City** Churubusco **County** ALLEN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** garwickn@gmail.com

**Comments** I am for the rule change allowing rifle cartridges .243 and larger. I don't think they should be allowed on state park hunts.

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 8:49:38 PM

**Commenter Name** Randy Young

**City** Battle Ground **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** kc9bfs@yahoo.com

**Comments** In spite of what Jack Corpuz may say, this has been studied before and the "common wisdom" that shotguns are safer than rifles has been debunked: [http://www.ihea.com/\\_assets/documents/AFWA\\_Presentation\\_9-18-07.pdf](http://www.ihea.com/_assets/documents/AFWA_Presentation_9-18-07.pdf)

I am no longer able to find a link online to the results of the complete study commissioned by the Pennsylvania Legislature, but I can email the PDF to anyone who wants a copy. The above link is merely a condensed synopsis of the complete report.

#### "6.0 CONCLUSION

Incident rates could not be standardized for a comparison of the risk of shotgun usage versus rifle usage when examining the PGC's incident data. Understanding this limitation, the data was useful in describing the geographic distribution of incidents and the spatial analysis shows significant clusters of incidents both inside and outside the Special Regulations Areas.

The 1998 PGC study utilized the maximum range to determine the danger area, which assumed abnormal behaviors and accidental acts. This study used an alternative method for developing danger areas both in technique and assumptions. The danger areas produced in this study are based on the concept of the probability of an aiming error and a subsequent ricochet. This approach produced a probable danger zone around the hunter and the risk was compared for the rifle-ammunition combinations by examining the resulting danger areas.

Contrary to the 1998 study, this study concludes that comparing risk using only the maximum range obtained at a 35-degree firing elevation and the corresponding danger area of the firearm-ammunition combination provides the policy maker an incomplete picture. When discharging the examined firearm-ammunition combinations with large (10 degrees) and moderate (5 degrees) aiming errors, the danger areas of the shotgun and muzzleloader are less than that of a rifle; hence, given this firing condition, the shotgun and muzzleloader are less risky than the rifle. However, shotguns firing modern sabotaged slugs have a larger danger area than the .30-06 rifle when the angle of elevation is approximately level (0 degrees); hence, given this firing condition, the shotgun is riskier than the rifle. In other words, the typical hunter discharging a 12 gauge shotgun fitted with a rifled barrel firing a .50-caliber sabotaged modern high velocity ammunition at a deer on level terrain is riskier than a hunter firing a .30-06 with a 150 grain expanding bullet at the same deer.

The muzzleloader proved to have less risk in all firing conditions.

The explanation for the last case where the shotgun is more risky relates to how the .30-caliber projectile interacts with the impact media at shallow (low) angles and its aerodynamic characteristics after ricochet. The smaller cross sectional area of the .30-caliber projectile and its shape contributes to a higher loss of energy on impact and after ricochet the .30-caliber projectile tends to tumble in flight with a high drag. Test data confirm that the .50-caliber projectile's larger cross sectional area and its shape contribute to less energy loss on shallow angles of impact and after ricochet the projectile exhibits less drag which results in a greater total distance traveled.

44

It is recommended that the PGC address the public perception that a shotgun with modern high velocity ammunition is less risky than centerfire rifles in all circumstances. This has some urgency since legally mandated Special Regulations

Areas have promoted the assumption that shotguns are always less risky than a rifle for hunting deer. Frangible, or reduced ricochet, projectiles, for hunting firearms should be investigated as an alternative to the mandatory use of shotguns or muzzleloaders and as a means of managing risk in Special Regulations Areas. While the suitability of these projectiles for hunting deer remains unknown, the nature of these projectiles to break apart on impact would increase safety."

**"7.0 SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER ACTION**

**7.1 Examine Other Projectile Types**

The use of reduced ricochet (frangible) projectiles should be investigated as a means of reducing the risk of ricochets. Preliminary research reveals several manufacturers producing frangible projectiles. While the suitability of these projectiles for hunting deer remains unknown, the nature of these projectiles to break apart on impact would increase safety and help to make the mandatory use of shotguns a viable risk management option.

**7.2 Enhance Hunter Education**

Improve the education of the hunter to enhance awareness and reduce the risk of further incidents. It is recommended that the PGC begin a safety education program to address the perception that a shotgun with modern high velocity slugs is less risky than centerfire rifles in all circumstances. This has some urgency since it is likely that legally mandated Special Regulation Areas have promoted the assumption that shotguns and muzzleloaders are overall less ri

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 8:54:29 PM**

**Commenter Name** Scott Kimmel

**City** LaOtto County DEKALB State IN

**E-Mail Address** 1scottkimmel@gmail.com

**Comments** I am against the proposal to open up the limitations on rifle calibers which may be used to harvest deer. I live in a rural part of Indiana and do not want to have more reason to worry about a stray bullet.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:03:48 PM**

**Commenter Name** michael workman

**City** Columbia City County WHITLEY State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mrworkman64@yahoo.com

**Comments** I would welcome the use of rifle caliber guns its been a long awaited addition to Indiana fields.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:13:18 PM**

**Commenter Name** David Owens

**City** Indianapolis County MARION State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ednedna@att.net

**Comments** Support use of high powered rifles for deer. The present muzzleloaders and sabot slugs and high powered handguns are capable of 200 yard shots I don't believe these rifles would pose any undo advantage or safety issues. Hunting is a safe sport and I don't think this would alter that. Also since most hunting in woodlots I don't think shots would normally be taken at extreme ranges. Thank you

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 9:57:39 PM**

**Commenter Name** Randy Braunecker

**City** Ferdinand County SPENCER State IN

**E-Mail Address** randybraunecker@gmail.com

**Comments** Personally I think the use of high powered rifles is a bad ideal. The land in a lot areas is way to flat for some of the irresponsible hunters. The numbers of deer are way down too in a lot of areas and this is Gona make it worse

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 10:05:38 PM**

**Commenter Name** Brandon Wortley

**City** Rochester County FULTON State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** brandonwortley@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am in favor of the proposed rule changes for deer hunting calibers of .243

Or larger, but I am a little nervous about the possibility if some of the guys coming to the woods with a 30 round magazine full of .308 and spraying all of them at the first group of deer they see. An extreme example i know, but the few idiots that are blasting away with no regard to safety will be able to really reach out there now. Maybe a 10 round limit in the rifle would help? Overall I don't think there will be major problems but at least a warning in the hunters guide about ranges of certain calibers (a chart perhaps?) would be appropriate. Located on the same page as the caliber rules are listed. Also a reference to the legal responsibility of the hunter for every bullet that leaves his weapon. This could offend some of the safe responsible hunters, but if it makes even one of the "spray and pray" hunters think before heading to the woods, that would be worth it. Thank you for reading and considering my comment.

**Comment Received 12/7/2014 10:07:31 PM**

**Commenter Name** Terry Reaves

**City** Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** t.reaves1@comcast.net

**Comments** I fully support the proposed changes.

**Comment Received** 12/7/2014 10:39:15 PM

**Commenter Name** Jason Bohlander

**City** Connersville County FAYETTE State Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Bohlander Taxidermy

**E-Mail Address** jasonbohlander@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am pleased to hear the rule proposals on allowing a wider range of rifles for the Indiana deer season but. The way the current proposal is written all firearms .243 and larger can be used. That would even allow .308 AR15 rifles to be used in the deer wood next year. I have 3 kids that hunt with me and the thought of someone on the next farm over possible carrying a .308 AR15 almost scares me enough to not want my kids to hunt anymore. I am all for the new rifle changes but restrict the type of guns that can be used while deer hunting. Restrict all semi automatic rifles and just allow single shot, bolt action, pump, or lever action rifles. I realize that we have been able to deer hunt with semi auto shot guns for years but those stray rounds can be measured in yards when someone shoots at a running deer and misses several times where the stray round from a semi auto high powered rifles could travel for miles if people aren't careful. I'm not as worried about the first shot or maybe even the 2nd shot out of a bolt action or lever action rifle, because the odds are the hunter is going to be aware of his/her surroundings and whats behind the target but with a miss comes spooking/ running deer and all those follow up shots potentially being sprayed out of a .308 AR15 really makes me worry about the safety of my kids and myself while afield during future deer season

Thank you

Jason Bohlander

737 South County Road 200 West

Connersville IN 4733

(765)827-8313

(765)821-1504

jasonbohlander@yahoo.com

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 12:11:15 AM

**Commenter Name** Adam Tatter

**City** Rochester County FULTON State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** adamtatter@gmail.com

**Comments** I do not want High Powered Rifles to be legal for Firearms Deer Season. The county where i hunt has many hunters. The danger of added range on projectiles is far to dangerous.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 2:22:53 AM

**Commenter Name** Daniel chance

**City** Richmond County WAYNE State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dchanc493@aol.com

**Comments** I do not believe the use of high powered rifles should be approved we as landowners are already concerned about stray bullets entering our property from Neighboring property I believe the introduction a this use will increase the possibility of other people or livestock being injured we have too many careless hunters out there and also by continuing with current rules a person has to learn the sport to get deer within range people want it easy getting up 20 foot to get scent away wanting to shoot with high powered rifles I am a farm owner and hunted for past 35 years I love the sport and do not want to have to worry about my daughter or future grandchildren while hunting because of a rifle being shot 1/4 mile away

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 3:09:11 AM

**Commenter Name** Robert E. Hoffman

**City** Royal Center County CASS State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** beebob300@aol.com

**Comments** I wish to thank you all there in the DNR for the proposed rule change of deer hunting calibers to include the 243.

I have been waiting 48 years for this change. I purchased the 243 for Colorado deer and antelope hunting and for fox here in Indiana.

Of course , fox has upgraded to coyote these days.

Thank you ! Thank you !!!!

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 6:47:20 AM

**Commenter Name** larry cochran

**City** martinsville County MORGAN State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** larry.cochran@gmail.com

**Comments** I totally disagree with proposed changes to rifle calibers. As a deer hunter and a property owner of land in Morgan county I do not want to be out in the woods when there are people with hi power rifles plinking at deer far out of range of their skill level with flat shooting high power rifle. The current rifle rules allowing pistol calibers are adequate. I am 70 years old and have never taken a deer in exccess of about 85 yards. I consider this rule change to be totally irresponsible by the DNR. The thought of the "rambo" from indianapolis walking around in the woods with his high capacity AK scares me

to death. Please stop this NOW!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 6:54:54 AM

**Commenter Name** Todd Borgman

**City** Greensburg **County** DECATUR **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** roundballer24@yahoo.com

**Comments** The use of hi-powered rifles is not justifiable. I understand the insurance companies want deer reduction. I also know the hunters of Indiana and the state agencies have reduced deer numbers at their request. I do not understand why Indiana keeps going in the opposite direction of neighboring states like Iowa and Illinois which are considered great deer hunting states. It is time to give back to the Indiana hunter and vote no to hi-powered rifles. For not only the future of deer hunting, but the safety of our children.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 8:00:48 AM

**Commenter Name** Robert Magley

**City** Waterloo **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bmagley@bomaggroup.com

**Comments** I do not think deer should be hunted in Indiana with high powered rifles. There are already enough legal firearms allowed for use in Indiana and not enough deer. Also, Indiana is nothing like Michigan or other states where high powered rifles are allowed. It is too populated. I live in the country and someone will get killed or seriously hurt because most people don't appreciate the range of a high caliber bullet.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 8:08:29 AM

**Commenter Name** Jeremy Shireman

**City** Corydon **County** HARRISON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jrshireman@gmail.com

**Comments** I think the entire proposal is a positive move. I wish there was something more the state would do to help improve the grouse population. Big game management in the state has been good for a long time, but there needs to be more focus on improvement of habitat for small game.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 8:14:14 AM

**Commenter Name** scotty lamb

**City** indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** scottymbangbang10@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am in favor of allowing the use of high power rifles for deer hunting. I do alot of deer hunting in ky and the terrain that I hunt on is usually more flat than the areas I hunt at home in indian, I dont see a problem especially when they are already being used to hunt coyote in indiana so whats the difference with deer. Lets do it.. thanks just my input

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 8:15:02 AM

**Commenter Name** James D. Racine

**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jvracine@gmail.com

**Comments** I support responsible hunting and feel an expansion of rifle cartridges allowed will allow for more efficient and effective hunting. I also hope that more accurate firearms will reduce the number of wounded deer that die after running, are never found and go to waste.

I still feel shotguns and archery should be used in areas near populated areas but the majority of the state and hunting area are not near these areas. While i support reasonable limitations in populated area there are many fields where a 200-300 yard shot can safely be taken and will better the vital need for effective hunting in the state of Indiana.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 8:43:13 AM

**Commenter Name** Bennie Doss

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** fcdad@comcast.net

**Comments** As a deer hunter in Indiana, I have been hunting for over 40 yrs. In those 40 yrs I never found the need to be able fire at a deer over 75 yards away. Nor have I been hunting in a situation where a shot at that distance was even feasible. We currently have enough firearms in the rules that will easily cover up to 150yds, without having firearms with effective range over 250yds. The dangerous carry on these rounds could be in the multiple miles. A shot fired at a silouetted animal could be accident waiting to happen. The number of deer hunters afild today and the limited amout of open country in Indiana are both reasons to not adopt these firearm rules.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 9:00:57 AM

**Commenter Name** Jim Brinks

**City** Bristol **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** designsolutions495@gmail.com

**Comments** I would be in favor for this rifle proposal. I live and hunt in a "hilly" area in northern Indiana and feel from a safety issue there would be no problem.

Even though I would not be able to use maximum range of the gun do to the dense tree and brush where I hunt, the rifle would produce more quick and humane kills.

I hunt black bear in Canada with the gun I would use for deer hunting in Indiana if this were to pass. No doubt it would be a better choice than using a shotgun.

Thanks for considering the rule change!

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 9:21:50 AM**

**Commenter Name** Marc Gahimer

**City** St.Paul County SHELBY State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** m\_gahimer@yahoo.com

**Comments** 312 iac 9-3-3 I am 100 % apposed to allow more high powered rifles for deer hunting most importantly the south central and nothern sections of the state. The land is too flat and someone will get hurt by a stray bullit from some one who wants to shoot 300 yards at a deer. There are also too many houses etc in these open rural areas.

312 iac 9-3-4:

i would like to see the archery season begin before Oct 1. Rush county should also go back to being an A county as I have commented on numerous times.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 9:28:35 AM**

**Commenter Name** Richard Puskaricg

**City** Anderson County MADISON State IN

**E-Mail Address** rich.puskarich@yahoo.com

**Comments** High powered rifles on public land will put my safety in jeopardy and have no benefit to managing the deer population. I say no way.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 9:40:56 AM**

**Commenter Name** John Budreau

**City** Fowler County BENTON State IN

**E-Mail Address** j.budreau@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** I believe the proposed rule change concerning high powered rifles is the most dangerous change the DNR has ever proposed !

As a owner of hunting property in Indiana and have hunter for over 40 years

I believe this change is not only unsafe for fellow sportsmen but to personal property owners. The land in northern Indiana is very flat and open this to me seems like a dangerous combination.

Over the years I have seen the deer herd in Indiana go from minimal to one

of the best in the nation due the hard work of the Indiana DNR over the last

two years I have noticed a reduction of the herd most likely due to the doe

only season. I believe this rule change could be a step in the wrong direction towards sportsman safety and this should be TOP PRIORATY !

Thank you

John budreau

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 9:55:39 AM**

**Commenter Name** Brian Romack

**City** Cross Plains County RIPLEY State Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Hunter

**E-Mail Address** bromack3@seidata.com

**Comments** My comment is on the use of High Powered rifles, I think this would be the the big mistake , there is not enough open country for this, our state is to populated for this type of weapon, there are way to many hunters that have no buisness using a rifle of this caliber it is getting dangerous as it is with the slug guns and muzzleloaders that we have today, I feel you will see lots of accidental shootings if this law comes into effect!!! thanks for your time and I hope my comment helps with your decision,

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 10:05:34 AM**

**Commenter Name** steven wynn

**City** medora County JACKSON State in

**E-Mail Address** wynn\_steven@frontier.com

**Comments** I think allowing high powered rifles for deer hunting a bad ideal, we have to many people in the woods, we have to many people that shoot at the first thing they see move and with rifles there going to be shooting futher out and not even have a clue what there shooting at. and out around privete property there are way to many opens spots that don't have a back drop and most don't think about where that bullet will travel after it passes the target. Over 50 percent of the people that are deer hunting durning the fire arm season are just out there for a weekend or to just to say they went deer hunting and don't think or care about anyone else around them the just say if its brown it is down and most of the time they don't even fine there kill or get a bad shot and just wound the deer. and with this raising the quote this year and the past few year with record number harvested, and the disease that went around a few years ago has really put a hurt on our deer herds,this is my 15th year deer hunting and I hunt from the oct 1 to the very end of season and it is the worst season ive had, seeing very low number of deer and have had severl sets in a role that I aint even seen a deer. so with that being said the last thing we need is more wound game not being found and with high powered rifle I believe that is what we will have.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 10:20:48 AM**

**Commenter Name** Brent Sivnksty

**City** Lakeville **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** brentsiv@gmail.com

**Comments** I am in favor of allowing high-powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. I believe it will result in more ethical kills and more game recovered. I would not mind if the rule did not allow "magnum" high-powered rounds, such as any of the Win-mag or Weatherby mag rounds, or the .50 cal Barrett. Nor would it bother me if the previous calibers were allowed.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 10:31:14 AM**

**Commenter Name** Dustin Cox

**City** Sullivan **County** SULLIVAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dcox06@yahoo.com

**Comments** Hello,

I would like to give you my thoughts and opinions on the new deer rule changes proposed for the upcoming 2015 season. I would like to start by saying that I strongly OPPOSE and vote NO to these changes. Here are some reasons why:

1. Here is a statement made on the DNR website, "There isn't a need to limit the equipment that can be used to take deer in order to manage the deer herd. The deer harvest was a record in 2012, and the DNR is managing the deer herd through other means.".....This may be correct, but you are not giving all of the info, you didn't mention that in 2013 there was an 8% drop in harvest, 10,000 less deer than 2012. So, why do we need to increase the equipment needed to manage the herd if it has dropped, right??

2.) The deer herd is obviously way low all across the state, which brings me to another point, the # of bonus antlerless tags need to be reviewed and lowered. The tactic of taking more does to reduce the herd has obviously worked, along with the EHD that has taken a toll, it has now caught up to us and the numbers in the deer woods are already way down, and your harvest #'s reflects that.

3.) We don't live in remote/rural landscape as they do out west, where these sizes of rifles are not a problem. It would not be safe to be in the woods on opening morning of firearms season, with the woods full of rifles, where a bullet can travel miles. Thats a little scary not to mention not safe!! Your website also states that modern muzzleloaders can shoot up to 500 yds so these rifles would be the same....that is false! I personally do not know of any muzzleloader that I could load up to shoot 500 yds and feel confident that I could make an ethical and lethal hit on a deer, and where in Indiana are you going to be able to take a 500 yd shot anyway? There is no comparison between the two.

I am an avid hunter, and also a gun hunter. I have nothing against the use of firearms for hunting deer, but I am against these new changes. I will be concerned for my safety and everyone else's if these laws go into effect. I hope you reconsider these changes, and I hope that you don't just consider increased license sales as your contributing factor, because I have not talked to one other person that supports your new changes.

Thanks you for your time,

Dustin Cox

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 10:41:04 AM**

**Commenter Name** Keith Wildeman

**City** San Pierre **County** STARKE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** wildemank@gmail.com

**Comments** Rifle for Deer Hunting- I am OPPOSED to allowing the use of all rifles during Indiana's deer season for several reasons. I have been a deer hunter for over 20 years. I deer hunt with archery, muzzleloader, and handgun. I am not a weekend warrior who turns into a deer hunter one weekend in November because I own a shotgun. I put in 60+ days each season in a treestand and harvest 3-4 deer a year with current legal equipment. The wounding of animals is by far the number one reason why I am opposed to this change. Gun hunters who only venture out into the field a couple times a year may help reduce the deer herd on opening weekend, but by allowing them weapons with longer reach will make them think they can take longer, more unethical shots. These are the hunters that wound and cripple countless numbers of deer as it is and do not make a reasonable effort to retrieve an animal. Many of these people do not take the time to practice with the firearms they currently use. They will go to a store and buy a high powered rifle off the shelf and go out and shoot at deer at 400 + yards because they see this being done on television programs. They may cripple the deer and not look for it after it does not drop in its tracks like deer do on the Outdoor Channel. The second is safety. With these longer unethical shots, there will be more collateral damage ie structures and possibly people, being shot. Even the lazy hunters who only use shotguns will generally hold off on taking a shot at a deer over 100 yards, especially when they see a structure behind the target. With their new found long range capabilities, they will take the shot first and think about what's beyond the target later. There will be houses, vehicles, and livestock shot. The fact that this is the only proposal the DNR has justified the use of rifles, pretty much tells me that their mind is already made up. Particularly, the thinly veiled excuse of smokeless powder muzzleloaders being 500 yard guns is bull. I am one of the very small number of people who hunt with one of these types of muzzleloaders. I'm sure that the number of people using wild cat rifle cartridges that meet our current poorly written rifle regulation far out numbers smokeless powder muzzleloader shooters. I am competent with this muzzleloader to no more than 300 yards, and that is because I have practiced a lot. Also it is a one shot deal. Let's see how many 30-06 rounds will get shot across a bean field when the weekend warrior begins to spray and pray. The excuse of rifles being used in other nearby states is like comparing apples to Oldsmobiles. Kentucky, Michigan, and PA all have long traditions of rifle hunting and all have the terrain to safely allow rifles. Only southeast Indiana has terrain anywhere near that and the rest of the State is flat to rolling flat at the most. Illinois, Ohio, and Iowa are all more similar in terrain to Indiana than the examples listed above. They all are shotgun/muzzleloader states, and all have big deer on top of that. I have talked with a number of people

about these proposals and by far, more people oppose the use of rifles. Even if extra criteria (restricted to private property, south parts of the state, etc) is placed on their use, it will not work. People do not take the time to read and understand current regulations as it is. There will be people using illegal equipment and in prohibited areas. This does not need to pass.

Fall turkey- I'm in favor of expanding the fall gun season. I think the fall archery season should run concurrent with fall deer archery season.

Turtles/Frogs- I'm in favor of a bag/size limit on turtles and allowing the use of air rifles for frogs.

Panfish bag limit- I'm in favor of the 25 fish limit. This has been proven effective in other states and at JC Murphy lake at Willow Slough to increase quality of panfish. Currently, ice fisherman place huge pressure on fish and take large unregulated numbers of fish reduces the quality of fishing for the rest of the public.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 10:50:50 AM**

**Commenter Name** Ron Snyder

**City** Georgetown County FLOYD State Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rsnyder@nhcs.k12.in.us

**Comments** I would first like to comment on the proposed change in the use of .243 caliber or larger for deer hunting. I do not think that the laws concerning the legal firearms for deer hunting need to be changed. Today's shotguns and muzzle loaders can shoot out to about 200 yds with some accuracy. After that distance the bullets drop off significantly. If you allow the use of these powerful center fire rifles you are putting other hunters and non-hunters at risk of being injured or killed. These rifles' cartridges can travel for miles and are not necessary for the killing of deer in Indiana. Every year I have been able to kill multiple deer in Indiana by using woodsmanship and studying deer behavior. It seems like you are trying to dumb down deer hunting by allowing this rule to go into effect. Is baiting going to be the next practice that you allow to dumb down the harvesting of deer? There are enough opportunities for hunters to kill deer in Indiana if they put in the time to do it correctly. We don't need the added risk of injury to people or livestock. It seems as if you are trying to take the word "hunt" out of hunting. Next, I would like to address the proposed change in the possession limit for sunfish. I am sure that in some lakes that get pounded by fisherman, there might need a law that restricts the possession of sunfish. I live in the Southern part of the state and some of our lakes have an abundance of sunfish. If fisherman don't take out enough sunfish they tend to overpopulate and the fish become stunted because of competition for resources. I think that the state needs to do a population census for all of the lakes before they just make a law that is supposed to be one law that fits every situation. Please consider doing shocking or gill netting studies on all lakes before passing a law such as this. I am a volunteer hunter education instructor and a teacher with a degree in Biology. I am fairly knowledgeable about fish and wildlife and would appreciate your consideration for the comments that I have made. Thanks Ron Snyder

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 10:54:26 AM**

**Commenter Name** Kent Hutchins

**City** Rockville County PARKE State IN

**E-Mail Address** khutchins@dnr.IN.gov

**Comments** I believe the current regulations regarding allowable firearms for deer hunting are adequate. I have spoken with numerous sportsmen and landowners and the overwhelming majority are opposed to allowing higher velocity rifles for the taking of deer in Indiana.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 11:05:06 AM**

**Commenter Name** Walter Grzych

**City** Dyer County LAKE State IN

**E-Mail Address** w.grzych@att.net

**Comments** 312-IAC 9-3-3 - I am an avid deer hunter and have been for over 40 years. The legality of 28 ga shotgun should be included in the firearms regulations. The use of high powered rifles should NOT or EVER be considered for the state of INDIANA. The topography of the northern part of the state is relatively flat and considerably populated. Shotguns and muzzleloaders are already legal for use and enough deer are harvested over the 5 week firearm season (not including the antlerless extended season). In addition I believe that the use of high powered rifles will increase the risk from accidental shooting, especially in the northern zone. These occurrences will increase substantially and the potential for these injuries could cause some individuals to forgo participation altogether. This may be more evident on State hunted properties. Tradition of Shotgun only rifled slugs and Muzzleloaders needs to be preserved as the acceptable firearm(s) for deer harvest in INDIANA. High powered rifles belong in states where topography and population density allows those considerations for hunting activity. If the state needs to push this proposal then I would ask that strong consideration be given to establish either state boundaries or county restrictions in using these high powered rifles for deer hunting. I have more comments but will end on that thought. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 11:07:41 AM**

**Commenter Name** KEITH M SHIPMAN

**City** GUILFORD County DEARBORN State INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** KSHIPMAN@RESINDEK.COM

**Comments** I am against the use of Hi Power rifles for deer hunting. In my opinion it will increase the poaching of deer and also result in more gun related accidents. With the technology and advancements in today's shotguns and muzzleloaders and pistol caliber rifles it should be achievable to harvest the animal. I hunted Kentucky for a long time and it scared me to

see and hear the gun shots from the high powered guns. Unfortunately not everyone takes the time to learn their weapon and the proper use of it. I hope that you will take my comments into consideration.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 11:09:52 AM

**Commenter Name** Kirk Lude

**City** Columbia **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** hunterkirk66@aim.com

**Comments** I am commenting on the proposed changed in the deer hunting rifle rules. I am STRONGLY OPPOSED to this due to the population of people of where I hunt. I see no reason to allow rifle cartridges. People will start taking longer shots and not looking what is behind the deer when shooting, thus running the risk of shooting someone or someone's house.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 11:13:32 AM

**Commenter Name** Brian Keith Suhrheinrich

**City** Saint Croix **County** PERRY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bksuhrhein@psci.net

**Comments** I agree with most of the proposed changes made and would like to see these rules voted in .

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 11:47:17 AM

**Commenter Name** Dale Budzon

**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** SCI-NEI

**E-Mail Address** dbudzon@scinei.com

**Comments** As an avid hunter and the former president of the SCI Northeast Indiana Chapter, let me speak for the approximately 1000+ members of the chapter by saying we support this potential rifle change. With the modern muzzle loaders and other custom legal deer guns that feature long range shooting capability, we would experience a real change during our gun seasons. We would be able to harvest more deer to keep our herds in check. I hope this is some good reasoning behind our support. Please feel free to call me at (260) 437-6343. Thanks, Dale

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 12:13:19 PM

**Commenter Name** Robert Hightower

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** hightowerrobert@yahoo.com

**Comments** Indiana does NOT need high power rifle deer hunting. Even on private land I hear shots going off all around me. I feel somewhat safe in that I know those bullets only travel a limited distance. I do not want high power rifles being used. Too powerful. Not needed for a vast majority of deer hunting terrain. Some one is going to get hit by a stray bullet. Instead of continuing to make IN hunting harder and more cumbersome with rule after rule after rule....how about making hunting more simple and enjoyable. You should have no doubt that all your rules keep pushing hunters away from the sport. Quit making so many wasted, useless, complicated rules.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 12:20:38 PM

**Commenter Name** Mitchell Cain

**City** Alexandria **County** MADISON **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Cain Farms

**E-Mail Address** cainfarms@yahoo.com

**Comments** I have hunted deer with a 308 moa pistol I am glad to see the change to rifles. It will allow me to hand load with the equipment and tools I have .

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 12:32:15 PM

**Commenter Name** Mark Collins

**City** Muncie **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mwcollins2@bsu.edu

**Comments** I do not want high powered rifles to be used in Indiana for deer season. I hunt flat farm, I think high powered rifles will have bullets skipping off the ground, that might hit hunters and homes along distance away, a hunter may not know this and this scares me alot. You can kill plenty of deer with what we already hunt with. Thanks Mark Collins

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 12:59:13 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael J Myers

**City** Churubusco **County** WHITLEY **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jmyers@catool.com

**Comments** On the use of High Powered rifles:

I've hunted for over 40 years and this would scare me out of the woods in northern Indiana with all the hunters participating in deer firearms season. With hunters spread out within 100 to 200 yards from each other. I can't see this being a safe choice. Not to mention someone in a ground blind. There are just too many hunters within confined areas for a high powered rifle that will shoot 500 yards. Shotgun and muzzle loaders shooting up 150 yards should be plenty!! There is just not enough open space in the northern farm grounds.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 1:24:12 PM

**Commenter Name** Matt Klaus



**City** fort wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mattklaus@rocketmail.com

**Comments** I think that panfish limits are long overdue. I understand that catching fish and having a fish fry is tremendous fun, but there have been times I've tried to fish a known hotspot on a Monday or Tuesday and it's been picked absolutely clean over the weekend! Thank you for finally seeing this as a significant issue. I would also like to comment on the deer hunting rule change. I think using rifles is a fantastic idea, more precise shooting should mean fewer shots fired overall and hopefully fewer shots at running animals when someone's first shot does nothing but scare the deer away. Rifles also generally shoot better quality projectiles that should kill deer more humanely than the old solid lead slug that many still use. Thank you again.

Matt Klaus

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 1:52:24 PM

**Commenter Name** Sam Whitaker

**City** Claypool, Indiana **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** swhitaker@kcgov.com

**Comments** I would like to comment on the proposed rule change that would allow rifles with a .243 caliber or larger bullet. I ADAMANTLY DISAGREE First the change speaks about muzzle loaders shooting 500 yards with smokeless powder. I have never seen that but if it s true eliminate the use of smokeless powder in muzzle loaders, problem solved. Dont justify shooting 500 Yards.

In the proposal the talk is about rifles that can be used are 30-30 or 45-70 all which are 200 yard guns. Why wasnt 416, 7 mm Remington mag, 30-06 mentioned as by your proposed rule change would be a legal weapon. (DNR used those rifles 30-30 and 45-70 calibers to manipulate the citizens into thinking thats not so bad they are only a 200 yard gun and would not comment and the rule would pass) You are manipulating the process with the untruths.

I would be very nervous if I knew my neighbor was using a 416 shooting in my direction. The only neighboring state that allows rifles is Kentucky. Michigan which you list is the upper portion with very limited population of people and rifle section does not border Indiana. Ohio, Illinois does not allow rifles and I might add have a 7 day buck season not 1 month like Indiana. ONE MONTH (CRAZY) now lets kill all the deer. You know Indiana is a diverse state and in the hills of southern Indiana a rifle would work it doesnt mean the whole state? Take it from Michigan.

I have 30+ years experience in law enforcement and we took plenty of reports of homes being struck by bullets with what is currently being used, Rifles would increase this problem for sure, a .416 travels a long way with lots of kinetic energy when it gets there, unlike muzzle loaders and or (30-30)

Why ???? thats the question you have lowered the deer herd at the demand of legislation!! we do not need to take the safety risk of allowing rifles when hunters are already killing the deer needed to lower the numbers. The doe quota numbers are going down in every county in the last several years since legislatures introduced the bill that passed the house and went to the senate and DNR place a 8 bonus on lots of counties.. An you now allow crossbows for gun hunters to kill during the archery season.

COME ON you going to legalize tanks, RPG and cannons next . this is so disgusting I cant believe this was even proposed. I been to all your meetings, answer all your proposals and I know from past experience that DNR is going to do what they want to do, doesnt matter what the people or I say. Here we go again!!!!

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 2:15:22 PM

**Commenter Name** Andy Crozier

**City** Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** ico921@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am against the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. Some of us still like to "hunt" deer in Indiana, and not just see how far away we can shoot one. Since the herd numbers have been reducing, I see no reason to introduce a new, easier way to kill deer.

If this proposal does pass, then I would like consideration that our "primitive weapons" seasons be restricted to the real primitive weapons they were initially intended for. The muzzleloading rifle season should eliminate the use of all in-line rifles. It has been stated as one of the reasons Indiana is considering the use of high powered rifles, that the modern muzzle loading rifle can shoot 500 yards. Those firearms should only be allowed in the modern firearms season. Leave the late season to those that love to hunt the traditional way, using hunting skills, not just shooting longer distances. It should be limited to exposed sidelock designed flintlock and percussion lock guns using loose powder and prohibit the use of sabot bullets. Big Oaks refuge started such a hunt in 2013, and it has had overwhelming interest and participation.

I have little doubt that the high powered rifle proposal will pass. The past decisions of the DNR and NRC have consistently proved that the heritage of hunting no longer matters in this era. The commercialization of hunting, especially deer, using the least amount of effort possible has made many hunters I have known leave the sport. They don't want to be lumped in with the antler crazy, movie star wannabe "shooters".

At some point I hope that Indiana wakes up to the revenue generating possibilities it holds with the quality deer we have in this state, but as we liberalize weapons and seasons, that quality will wane, and we will no longer be one of the least known

best destinations to hunt for quality deer.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 2:28:16 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael Doherty

**City** Richmond **County** WAYNE **State** IN

**Organization (optional)** Doherty Inc.

**E-Mail Address** dohertyinc15@gmail.com

**Comments** We are in full support of this rule change, and we encourage adoption. As one of the largest land owners in Wayne County (over 2000 acres), we believe most of Wayne County and most of Indiana is safe for rifle cartridges like 30-30, 45-70, etc. The "wildcat" cartridges (like .358IDC), smokeless muzzle loaders, or Lightfield slugs carrying over 1000# of energy at 200 yds. with only 19" drop. Expanding to more cartridges will make deer hunting more affordable for the average individual. There are lots of 30-30 and 45-70 rifles gathering dust handed down from family members that could be used.

Please adopt this rule change.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 2:35:45 PM

**Commenter Name** Bruce Berner

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** bruceberner@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** I would like to add my support for allowing all center fire rifles .243 and up. Where I mostly hunt in Southern Indiana, it doesn't matter, but occasionally I hunt over crop fields north and west. The added range would be nice. From a practical standpoint, many of the modern slug guns and in line muzzle loaders have external ballistics very close to many center fire calibers. Also, some of the currently allowed cartridges have energy levels similar to those still not allowed. Lets even the playing field.

I found the rules on would pigs a bit confusing. There is no mention of rules for hunting them on public land or if there is any season or bag limit. I get the impression there is not, but it would be nice to have that clearly stated.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 2:37:14 PM

**Commenter Name** Stephen Stalvey

**City** Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** stephen.stalvey@icloud.com

**Comments** i fully support these proposed changes!

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 2:54:46 PM

**Commenter Name** Ben Spieth

**City** Monroeville **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bspieth@ivytech.edu

**Comments** I am writing to let you know that I as well as countless others are against the idea of allowing high powered rifles to be used during deer season. My reasons are as followed:

1. Much of the state is too flat, if a person were to miss or get a clean pass through it is more than possible for that projectile to still travel hundreds of yards and be a danger to anyone or anything that could be behind the target.
2. The harvests numbers are high enough right now, instead of allowing new equipment we should be looking more into reducing the quota on deer to be taken... sure in some areas the number of deer may be out of control high, but have you ever taken consideration that the number of deer in the area are high because someone own a large piece of land and does not allow hunting on it. Right now about there are about 200 deer in one area because the owners of that 100 acres does not allow any hunting on their land (which is their right and I am not complaining about it). Where as a couple miles away where I hunt there might only be 10 deer per 1,000 acres. I use them as an example as to the reason deer numbers in one area might be higher than another.
3. High powered rifles are dangerous, just as any weapon is dangerous high powered rifles are way more dangerous than any shotgun out there. If I am sitting in my tree stand I do not want to know if I am going to get shot my someone 400 yards away.
4. Can't compare high powered rifles to modern muzzleloaders, I don't know who's muzzleloader you are using than reaches out and accurately hits at 500 yards but could you get me a name and number please? I am intrigued...
5. Flat out knowledge of guns in general, like I said previously anyone who can reach out and hit at 500 yards with a muzzloader obviously know what they are doing. Now hand some yay-hoo who could barely hit the broadside of a barn with his shotgun, a high powered rifle that can kill a deer at 400-500 yards... do you really think he's gonna be the most responsible with it... probably not. It takes real skill and familiarity with a weapon to hit a deer a quarter mile away, I just dont think people will have enough respect for the weapon, deer, or other hunters in general to maximize their skill to that point.
6. No fun, harvesting a deer when it is close up is one of the greatest thrills a person can have, to do it from a far off distance is no fun and it shows that you have zero class as well as zero skill when it comes to hunting deer.

Last and foremost, I am writing evermore to say that it would be of great benefit to any and all hunters as well as to the dwindling deer population here in Allen county if you would separate the the urban/reduction zone quotas from that of the rest of the county quotas.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 3:11:37 PM**

**Commenter Name** Neil VanTrees

**City** Fishers **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** nvantrees@gmail.com

**Comments** I would like to know if you implement the deer rifle change, what are you doing for hunter orange requirements during the rifle season? I suggest you follow Wisconsin DNR rules for example. Main body needs 50% solid orange. No orange camo allowed. If you have a hat on (or make it required) it needs to be solid orange with minimal logos. As of right now a hunter can wear an orange sock hat and be legal. I think it is a shame you don't require a vest in addition to the hat. The current rule (hat only) doesn't even comply with your 144 square inch requirement for ground blinds. If you institute this new rule, I would look at other states to match their hunter orange to make it safer for everyone.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 3:16:22 PM**

**Commenter Name** John Cave

**City** Morgantown **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** marshal\_jd@yahoo.com

**Comments** As a deer hunter of 30 years, I feel the rifle proposal is the worst proposed rule to the safety of Indiana residents and hunters. I have been a law enforcement officer for 17 years and have numerous calls over the years in my county of property damage caused by improper, accidental, or reckless shooting. Most people don't realize how far a rifle projectile will travel or the ricochet potential. I do realize that some rifles cartridges are legal now in handgun and others have been developed (.358 Hoosier), but not everyone has one of these in the closet. Under the proposed rule a .50 BMG would be legal as long as it does not have a FMJ bullet.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 3:22:03 PM**

**Commenter Name** mark tuley

**City** boonville **County** WARRICK **State** in

**E-Mail Address** shahzam@sit-co.net

**Comments** there is no way high powered rifles should be allowed in In. I live out in the country with a lot of hunting all around me just what I need is to have one of my horses shot by A round that did not hit the deer some one shot at at 300 yards cause they see it done on tv not to mention the deed deer that will not be found because they did not drop in there tracks like tv do you know how hard it is to pin point where a deer was standing to find a blood trail when you shot at it from 200 plus yards away the weapons we are allowed to use at this time are plenty good I have already heard a few people talk about being able to shoot that deer when it steps out into the field at 300yards away when we were at the truck getting ready to leave for the morning scary scary I have been hunting deer for over 25 years archery gun black powder in all that time with a gun I have taken 3 deer over 150 yards the rest under 100 yards high powered rifles are not needed in IN. DO NOT DO THIS I am sure the insurance co. are saying the head needs to be reduced well not in south western part of the state if it was that large they would allow bonus tags on state property like Interlake Sugaridge Bluegrass but they do not and if you do not own or lease hunting ground this is where you hunt in this part of state how about working out a deal with coal companies who own thousands of acres that you can not hunt on unless you lease it which I have never been able to find out how to do this no matter what they say no ground to lease again I ask DO NOT DO THIS I know KY does but Ohio & Illinois does not you are asking for a lot of trouble that will come from this change I am not sure benifits would out way the trouble DO NOT DO THIS

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:03:26 PM**

**Commenter Name** Billy Kent

**City** Memphis **County** CLARK **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Billy\_kent@b-f.com

**Comments** No vote for me on the expanded legal cartridges....

Indiana has a vast array of hunting cartridges available that are more than capable of taking whitetail deer in our hunting landscape. Adding the additional rifle cartridges will not only negatively impact deer hunting but will endanger hunters. Most privately owned land in this area is relatively small sections joined closely by neighboring properties. Having many of these rifle calibers available would give me an uncomfortable feeling knowing someone on the property next to me has one. With all the semiautomatic platforms available now there will be a few folks whom will carry 308 semi's and think they can shoot every round in the clip at running game without realizing the risks associated - there is no way to control that.

I am already hearing many young hunters brag about how far away they will be able to shoot deer next year - 500 yards with their AR15

If you want to control the deer population then extend seasons and lower the cost associated so that the general public can afford it. Current licensing fees turn many people away. Not to mention we as a state are breaking ground and turning out Indiana only rounds and guns that (Hoosier, etc)- opening up the cartridge range will take this economic stimulus away and open the market to any old caliber.

<p>Sincerely Billy Kent <b>Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:05:39 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jared Alsdorf <b>City</b> Lebanon <b>County</b> BOONE <b>State</b> IN <b>E-Mail Address</b> jalsdorf@abgagservices.com <b>Comments</b> I agree with and support the proposed changes as outlined in the Fish and Wildlife General Rule Package. I also support the proposed changes governing deer hunting equipment (312 IAC 9-3-3). The rationale for the changes seems reasonable and takes into account surrounding states thereby allowing Indiana hunters more options. Good job and thanks for considering high powered rifles. <b>Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:07:06 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Ward Turner <b>City</b> Gas City <b>County</b> GRANT <b>State</b> IN <b>E-Mail Address</b> ward55@yahoo.com <b>Comments</b> affirm <b>Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:21:28 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brian Mann <b>City</b> La Porte <b>County</b> LAPORTE <b>State</b> IN <b>E-Mail Address</b> bmann301@comcast.net <b>Comments</b> In my opinion you are making it easier and easier for gun hunters to kill more deer (young bucks) without putting any rules in place to get them to kill the deer (does) that actually helps reduce the population and improves the herd. I think that it should be required for all hunters to harvest a female deer prior to "earning" a buck tag. There could be a 3 day early doe season around the 2nd Saturday of October so that gun hunters could earn their buck tag.  Another idea is to allow a second buck to be earned if a hunter harvests 3 female deer. To verify the deer photos showing the sex of the deer could be uploaded during the check in process like they do in Kansas. Or the deer could be checked at a check station where the attendant could verify that the deer are female and not just antler less.  Thank you <b>Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:29:42 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Harry Bishop <b>City</b> New Haven <b>County</b> ALLEN <b>State</b> Indiana <b>E-Mail Address</b> Melssparkie@gmail.com <b>Comments</b> I am grateful to see the changes proposed in this section pertain to long rifle caliber usage changing. However I fear that the use of rifles with high capacity magazines will be far too easy for some to use because of this change. I would like to see a magazine maximum capacity 4+1 chambered similar to that of the shotguns currently used. I believe there is no justification for having to take more than 5 total shots in one setting. The ability for people to have high capacity long range rifles makes me uncomfortable, when used in a hunting situation. I would not feel safe to bring myself, let alone my children into the field of this kind of high capacity magazines were to be allowed. Thank you for your time. <b>Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:45:03 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Donaldinnich <b>City</b> Georgetown <b>County</b> FLOYD <b>State</b> IN <b>E-Mail Address</b> dons59tr3a@aol.com <b>Comments</b> I feel that high powered rifles should be legal, especially in southern IN where it is wooded and not flat. It seems ridiculous that I can use a 308 for coyotes and not for deer. I also feel that grouse season should temporarily be suspended. Grouse seem to be getting more scarce. <b>Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:45:21 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jason Nicholson <b>City</b> Rockville <b>County</b> PARKE <b>State</b> Indiana <b>E-Mail Address</b> jason.nicholson82@yahoo.com <b>Comments</b> Please DO NOT pass this proposal. The proposal only limits minimum bullet diameter and minimum case length. This opens the door for rifles that are too powerful and far reaching for the state of Indiana. With the wording of the proposal .300 win. mags and larger would be legal. Long range centerfires pose little threat during coyote season because of the fewer numbers of hunters in the field at any given time. Firearms season for whitetail on the other hand is much more congested which increases the risk of accidental shooting incidents. With other deer population control methods available, what added benefit do centerfires rifles present that outweighs the risk to one's person, property, or livestock? Please understand the risks this poses to hunters and non-hunters alike. <b>Comment Received 12/8/2014 4:54:03 PM</b></p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Will Shoemaker <b>City</b> Lafayette <b>County</b> TIPPECANOE <b>State</b> IN <b>E-Mail Address</b> willshoemaker@gmail.com</p>

**Comments** I am opposed to making legal the use of so-called high-powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. For one, I believe these weapons present safety concerns that can not be adequately addressed other than by banning their use. Further, and most importantly, technological advances in recent years have allowed for significantly longer shots than was previously the case. A mere three decades ago, a high-powered rifle was generally viewed to be accurate only out to about 300 yards. Today, 1,500-yard shots are not out of the question. Simply look to the prevalence of "long-range hunting" in the Western U.S. This presents an ethical question. Should weapons that can be used to harvest deer at three or more times the distance as current become legal? For sake of sport and safety, I believe they should not.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 5:02:29 PM

**Commenter Name** David Swiney  
**City** Whitestown **County** BOONE **State** INDIANA  
**E-Mail Address** davidswiney@gmail.com

**Comments** I am in favor of allowing rifles to be used for hunting. Easier to use for kids and elderly, no statistical risk factors, and in my experience a quicker and more humane kill. I can't wait to use my .308 again to hunt deer.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 5:18:03 PM

**Commenter Name** Jerry Stowers  
**City** Rockville **County** PARKE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** stowersjl@juno.com

**Comments** I am commenting on the Rule Proposal to allow deer hunting with "High Powered Rifles." The first question that I would like to ask is, "Why?" I would think that if there is to be such a rule change there should be a valid reason to do so. I have been an avid deer hunter and lifetime license holder for many years. I have found the weapons that are now legal to be both, adequate and humane. Surely the thought behind this proposal is not to sell more tags by getting more hunters into the field. I believe to a large degree this would not be the case, I believe that we would find that the great majority of people that would be hunting with a rifle would just be switching from another now legal weapon. I further do not understand the reasoning behind this proposal from a safety standpoint. I had always been of the understanding that the thought process behind the current legal weapons was that they were of relatively short range. They lacked the potential to literally travel miles down range.

A standard 12 gauge slug drops 9 inches from the line of sight in the first one hundred yards. If an accurate study of the distances the deer is from the hunter when they are taken in Indiana I do believe that it would found that nearly all are taken at less than 100 yards, with most being taken at less than fifty. It simply does not make sense to make it legal to use a gun that has the potential to kill a deer at over three hundred yards and shoot through the neighbor's house also. Is this what we want to happen? Because I do believe that if this rule is adopted it is not a matter of if it will happen it is when. I am not opposed to "high powered rifles" as a matter of if someone might own and use them, I do believe they have that right if it is legal for them to possess them. My concern is the safety of hunters and non-hunters alike. If all of the shots I hear on opening morning are to become the reports of rifles. I do understand that some states around us have rifle season, but I also realize that their topography is different than ours also. We also have different population densities in areas. I have been to the North Woods of Wisconsin, I have been to areas of Michigan, and Kentucky where you might travel long distances and see only trees and no houses. Where can you do that in Indiana? The long and short of it is this: If you have read this far I thank you for your time, and I implore you to consider these few things,

1. Will this benefit the state and all the people of the state?
2. Will this benefit the management of the deer herd?
3. Will this make deer hunting safer in Indiana?
4. Will this truly be for the betterment of the sport, or does it serve only a special interest group, with a lobbyist?
5. Once the Genie is out of the bottle, how do you put it back?

Thank you for your time, and consideration of this comment.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 5:23:12 PM

**Commenter Name** Earl Hough  
**City** Berne **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** ehough@bernepd.org

**Comments** My comment is on the rule change allowing the use of more rifle cartridges.

I'm for using more calibers, however I would like to see a limitation of the amount of ammunition allowed. I know that there are people who will use the AR platform and just start throwing lead and not stop to check out the background behind their target. I realize that a "plug" is out of the question, but a limit of ammo in the magazine would still be a good idea in my opinion. Or limiting the use of semiautomatic rifles to certain counties/zones in the state and allowing bolt/single shot/ etc. everywhere. Especially in a flat area like Adams county (my county).

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 5:42:55 PM

**Commenter Name** Michael Wojtczak  
**City** Fremont **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** mwoj99@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am against allowing high powered weapons to hunt deer.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 5:45:53 PM

**Commenter Name** john turner  
**City** lynn County RANDOLPH State in  
**E-Mail Address** jet8888@live.com

**Comments** as an avid deer hunter , I support the proposed rule change to allow rifle calibers for deer hunting. with the checkerboard terrain of this state fields are becoming larger with the removal of small woodlots ,fence rows ,etc. thus putting many deer out of range of shotguns and modern muzzleloaders. which could be safely harvested with a rifle. I believe this could result in more quick and humane kills ,with less injured deer which are never retrieved by the hunter,that turns out to be coyote food in the end.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 6:13:35 PM

**Commenter Name** Mike Ripley  
**City** Fort Wayne County ALLEN State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** mike.ripley50@gmail.com

**Comments** Suggestions for deer legal cartridge changes:

Add a surcharge to licenses to use ANY rifle (any non shotgun) i.e. \$10 additional for a regular resident firearm license, \$15 for resident bundle, and \$50 for non-resident of any type

Create a weight and magazine capacity limit. IT IS NOT SAFE to have a hunter sitting on a ridge with a giant custom bench rifle if he does not have extremely specific training. Additionally, many of us would hunt with AR pattern rifles, but none of us needs 30 rounds to successfully bag a deer. Limiting the capacity will prevent irresponsible hunters from launching a volley of bullets into an unknown direction.

Introduce high power rifle shooting skills training into our state's hunter education program.

Prohibit the use of 50 bmg

Hire more conservation officers to enforce security at state-owned hunting areas. These areas will be less safe unless/until irresponsible and unethical hunters are fined and/or prosecuted for their offenses. State hunting areas, with their hunter density, would need extra attention to ensure safety.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 6:52:40 PM

**Commenter Name** Steve Quinn  
**City** Evansville County VANDERBURGH State IN  
**E-Mail Address** vcciteps23@aol.com

**Comments** was disappointed to see a daily bag limit of 25 in aggregate was being considered for bluegill of all things. This is absurd to place a bag limit on bluegill. Never has a body of water ever been fished out on bluegill due to overharvesting. Most smaller bodies of water need to have large amounts of blue gill removed to keep them from overwhelming the pond with sheer numbers and stunting all the fish. Please reconsider dropping the blue gill bag limit from the proposed 2015 regulation package.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 6:59:35 PM

**Commenter Name** Deborah Rogier  
**City** Greenwood County JOHNSON State IN  
**E-Mail Address** debbierogier@yahoo.com

**Comments** Indiana should allow deer hunting with high powered rifles such as 30-30, .270, etc. This will bring Indiana in line with other states. It will allow people who move to Indiana to use firearms they may already own or people who want to visit Indiana to hunt not to have to buy guns they don't already own. Given the performance of slug guns and muzzleloaders most rifles aren't that much different. There is no reason to keep these guns outlawed and the rules written so difficult to understand.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 7:03:12 PM

**Commenter Name** Joe Coffing  
**City** Monticello County CARROLL State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** d.coffing@comcast.net

**Comments** I am 100% against allowing the use of rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. I am 54 years old and have hunted for nearly 40 years. I hunt in Carroll, White, and Jasper Counties. In this part of the state, it is very flat terrain with alot of open farmland. In many areas, roads are only 1/2 mile apart. You would be hard-pressed to look through a scope in these areas and not see a house or farm buildings or livestock. We have had no trouble harvesting plenty of deer with shotguns and muzzleloaders. I fear that putting rifles in the hands of hunters that are not familiar with the range of these guns will do nothing but put other hunters, homeowners, and livestock in danger. What is it going to take to rethink this proposed law: someone or something getting killed; bullet holes in someones home? With the number of hunters in our area, I will not feel safe hunting on our own property. I also think there will be hunters taking shots at deer that are out of range because they have not shot the gun enough to know its capabilities. I think we will have more wounded deer running around. I envision a first missed shot followed by several shots that are "launched" at a fleeing deer with no regard for what is behind the animal or that a flat-shooting gun could have bullets skip or ricochet. I know that this can happen with any firearm but rifle cartridges can carry far beyond what is safe for this part of the country. You might be able to convince me that it would be ok in the

southern part of the state; but, not in the northern half of Indiana. I cannot imagine what you are trying to accomplish with allowing the use of rifles in Indiana. It cannot be about increasing harvest numbers or getting more hunters in the field. It has to be about safety. If I am able to see another hunter, I will not feel safe because he could have a rifle in his hands. I have talked to many fellow hunters and I have yet to talk to a single one that is in favor of this change. As a sport, we are trying to encourage more youth to hunt. The last thing I would want to do is put a rifle in their hands. Lets teach kids to hunt; not shoot a deer that is 1/2 mile away that you can hardly identify. I don't like the idea: if you can see it you can shoot at it. That is what people see when they watch all these hunting shows on TV. What are you really trying to accomplish? What does this change accomplish in terms of conservation? I would like to know the origin of this proposal because I cannot believe it came from hunters; especially in the northern part of the state. Let's make changes that are good for conservation; not what might be the desire of a few. There is good reason why the states around us are not allowing rifles. I would love to have a conversation with the person proposing this change. Actually, I would prefer to eliminate the rifle cartridges that are currently allowed.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 7:46:28 PM**

**Commenter Name** robert hartman  
**City** milan County RIPLEY State in  
**E-Mail Address** r\_hartman@live.com

**Comments** i think that allowing people to shoot repeated rounds out of a high powered rifle with the speed and knock-down power of todays ammo is unsafe. I too often hear people use the phrase "I took a shot at it". I hunt in ripley and Dearborn countys and there is no farm I know of that does not have houses around them or a road by it. if a deer is running across an open bean field and someone fires multiple high powered bullets where are these rounds going to end up at?

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 7:57:11 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jed Wright  
**City** Lafayette County TIPPECANOE State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** Crtbdass@aol.com

**Comments** Please do not allow high powered rifles. It will not be safe and lead to many heated disputes in the field. It will basically make poaching and trespassing easier. Also our deer population is finally starting to rebound from disease and mismanagement. This rule change will retard that process.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 7:57:11 PM**

**Commenter Name** Dennis Wickman  
**City** Jasper County DUBOIS State IN  
**E-Mail Address** dwickman@psci.net

**Comments** I oppose the rule change which would allow rifles of minimum .243 caliber and minimum 1.16 case length to be implemented. I don't think Indiana has sufficient 'open' land to allow use of longer range high power rifles than currently allowed. In my opinion, this is inviting accidents and greater chance of wounded ( and potentially lost) game.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 8:25:59 PM**

**Commenter Name** Steve Hajek  
**City** Wadesville County POSEY State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** srhajek@gmail.com

**Comments** We don't need high powered rifles in Indiana. I feel like you want to kill all the deer!

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 8:35:33 PM**

**Commenter Name** joe kabat  
**City** noblesville County HAMILTON State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** joe\_kabat@att.net

**Comments** The idea of allowing high powered rifles in this state is ridiculous In most areas a shot of 200 yds with a muzzleloader ( which only a minute few are capable of making) is sufficient. Put a 308(4 rounds) in the hands of a hunter he/she may take that shot knowing they have other rounds to spend. Just leave it alone, slugs are capable at 200 plus yds What else do we Need==This is a receipt for disaster, fatalities, and lawsuits.

Thank You

Joe Kabar

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 8:43:05 PM**

**Commenter Name** Richard Green  
**City** Greenwood, IN County JOHNSON State IN  
**E-Mail Address** richard.g.green2@gmail.com

**Comments** I applaud the efforts to increase the caliber of rifle allowed to take wild game. My concern is the increased danger on public lands. Hikers already don't stay on marked trails nor do they usually wear orange. The allowance of 30-30, .223, and .243 caliber rifles are encouraged. However, to allow .270 or higher I suggest restricting these calibers to reserved hunts where traffic is minimal in SRA or closed State Parks.

**Comment Received 12/8/2014 8:47:27 PM**

**Commenter Name** Ian Smith  
**City** Richmond County WAYNE State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** a2e2ismith@frontier.com

**Comments** 312 IAC 9-3-3 (d) (4) governing allowable centerfire rifle cartridges for whitetail deer hunting  
As written, the proposed rule would appear to allow even a rifle chambered for the 50 caliber Browning machine gun (BMG) cartridge. I recommend that, instead of the proposed, relatively open-ended definition, that specific cartridges be allowed similarly to the list approved by the state of Ohio. To the Ohio approved list and the currently approved Indiana list, I would add the following cartridges: 30/30 Winchester; 32 Special; the 30, 32 and 35 Remington rounds; 32/40; and 38/40. These are all relatively low-velocity rounds that are for the most part readily available.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 8:56:32 PM

**Commenter Name** eric wise  
**City** corydon **County** HARRISON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** ewise1966@hotmail.com

**Comments** i support the provisions for rifles to take deer. if necessary to adress concerns about the range of rifles i would also support limiting use of rifle from an elevated position(tree stand) like north carolina requires so that you are shooting down at the ground in most cases.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 9:13:15 PM

**Commenter Name** John McInerney Jr  
**City** La Porte **County** LAPORTE **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** jjmcinerney@live.com

**Comments** I feel high powered rifles should be allowed for deer hunting in Indiana. Especially from a tree stand as all of your shots would be a downward trajectory toward the ground.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 9:19:18 PM

**Commenter Name** Jeff Wilson  
**City** Rushville **County** RUSH **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** jjwilson@gmail.com

**Comments** I 100% vote against the high powered rifle portion of the Rule change. You gave comparisons of different state that allow rifles. Indiana is more populated and the terrain is flatter then the states you mentioned. We will be having more people taking a lot farther shots that is not needed. Please look at other states like Illinois, Iowa. Our DNR is totally mishandling our natural resources. The population of deer is down and all you are doing is trying to generate revenue due to the mismanagement of our resources. One buck only is awesome and great change but look at length of firearm season and weapons used by states comparable like Illinois and Iowa. You guys need to do the right thing before people, property of "GAME" is damaged due to the use of rifles being shot at targets to far away.

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 9:23:23 PM

**Commenter Name** Robert D Hopkins  
**City** Scipio **County** JENNINGS **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** bhopkins1@frontier.com

**Comments** I respectfully ask you to reconsider the rifle caliber change. I feel the State of Indiana is too populated and flat for such calibers. The introduction of the "wildcat" calibers have given hunters a very unfair advantage. The deer herd of Indiana is on a rapid decline presently due to reduced habitate, higher antlerless permits, along with many other items currently destroying the herd. I am an avid deer hunter, archery, who spends close to \$500-1000 annually. If this new lw is introduced, many will stop hunting and contributing to the state income. I plant wildlife food plots to help the deer herd, not to lure in and destroy them. Again PLEASE reconsider the adoption of the rifle caliber and leave as it curently reads. It is much too giving to the hunter now. If HIGH POWERED RIFLES are introduced we will see many deer wounded and lost due the average hunter taking those extremely long rediculous shots since they think now they are a member of a SNIPER society. Please do not adopt this new rule....

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 10:52:41 PM

**Commenter Name** Will Collins  
**City** Greenville **County** FLOYD **State** In.  
**E-Mail Address** williamsusane@yahoo.com

**Comments** I think the deer hunting rules are fine I say know to two bucks in a single season, our state has improved on quality of bucks. Next I vote NO to allowing high powered rifles, I have grand kids that hunt and would not like someone using the wrong ammo shooting at a running deer with a 30-36. If the argument is we have weapons reaching 200 plus yards then why the need to increase the danger with more distance. We don't need some DA thinking he is a sniper and a 1000 yard shot! thank you

**Comment Received** 12/8/2014 11:22:18 PM

**Commenter Name** Trent Farrell  
**City** Roanoke **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** teamcurlee@aol.com

**Comments** The rule change to allow rifles is a good idea that is long overdue. High powered rifles have always been used to hunt other animals without any issues so why not for deer? Rifle caliber handguns have also been legal to use for many years and it only makes sense to finally legalize rifles.

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 3:52:07 AM

**Commenter Name** Shawn P. Noe



**City Indianapolis County MARION State Indianapolis**  
**E-Mail Address** alcohase@ameritech.net  
**Comments** 312 IAC 9-3-3 Equipment for deer hunting changes.

It looks like your going to allow next year anything over .243 caliber that has a case length of 1.16 inches.

I am concerned that this let's four oddball calibers in that are woefully underpowered for deer.

25-20, 32-30, 30 carbine, and 7.62x25 Tokarev.

These four calibers meet the minimum specs, but are truly woefully inadequate for deer hunting.

You should consider specifically banning these four calibers, as other states do.

The new regs are a step in the right direction, I just wanted to bring this to your attention.

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 5:06:40 AM

**Commenter Name** Alan Garbers  
**City Martinsville County MORGAN State IN**  
**E-Mail Address** alanjamesgarbers@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I would like to see a five-round magazine limit for firearms used while deer hunting. Many other states have this is it helps stop the "spray and pray" mentality.  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 6:04:10 AM

**Commenter Name** John carr  
**City Summitville County MADISON State IN**  
**E-Mail Address** johnleecarr@gmail.com  
**Comments** I support the rule change to allow High power rifles to take Deer. It makes no sense to me not to allow them. Current Muzzleloaders in use today are just as powerfull and dramatically increased effective kill range. It's also worth noting! Baiting of deer should be allowed!  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 6:26:24 AM

**Commenter Name** Grant Crawford  
**City Bedford County Out of State State PA**  
**E-Mail Address** grant.crawford@atk.com  
**Comments** I am strongly opposed to the proposal that would allow the use of rifles during the firearm season for Indiana deer. I am from Pennsylvania and have been hunting in Indiana for the last 18 years as my brother is a resident and owns property in Montgomery County. You have a great thing in Indiana with the quality of bucks. Please do not ruin it by making it much easier to kill them. Believe me; I know the consequence of that from my home state. The hunting is so much different here. If I had to choose one state or the other to hunt, it would be Indiana every time. Hunters here in PA can spend days in the woods and not see a buck and often even a doe. If I were a non-resident of my state, I would never consider buying a non-resident license for deer hunting. It isn't worth it. Eventually it would come to that in Indiana. There may be a spike in hunting interest at first but after the big bucks have been thinned out due to the ease of bagging deer with a high powered rifle, hunters would lose interest and not buy a license. PA license sales have dropped by over 25% in the last several years. People are complaining immensely about the lack of deer. Please be wise and do not ruin a good thing in Indiana. It will cost you in the long run. Oh yea, there are also safety concerns due to the flat terrain in Indiana. My 6mm-.284 with an 80 grain HP bullet would carry much, much further than the 450 grain bullet from my Savage ML which uses smokeless powder. Thanks for your consideration in this matter.  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 7:01:44 AM

**Commenter Name** Ethan Krafft  
**City St. Joe County DEKALB State IN**  
**E-Mail Address** coon\_hunt\_77@yahoo.com  
**Comments** Using rifles to hunt deer in indiana is a awful idea. I base this off of to many people/houses, to many hunters. Not enough deer or hills to stop bullets  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 7:44:51 AM

**Commenter Name** Brett Kugler  
**City Laotto County NOBLE State Indiana**  
**Organization (optional)** N/A  
**E-Mail Address** kuglers4@hotmail.com  
**Comments** Hunting with rifles is a bad idea. Not necessary. Deer population has already been greatly reduced.  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 7:47:44 AM

**Commenter Name** scott allen  
**City reynolds County WHITE State IN**  
**E-Mail Address** biggin771970@yahoo.com

**Comments** This could be the most ridiculous rule for deer hunting in the history of rule changes!!! To allow high powered rifles will be signing a death warrant to residents of this state. Anyone who has a tiny clue about what this rule will allow that has a conscious will vote no!!! I have been a hunter here since the early 80s I'm also a deer guide for one of the largest outfitters! I'm very concerned with the opening to all these rifles!! This rule would allow 1000 yard plus guns in area that is very flat!!! I'm not sure why someone would even consider this anything but a bad idea! As a hunter, guide and a father please do not allow the opening of all these rifles! the deer biologist that has made his points is not very clear on his reasons this will be ok! First the southern half of Mich. no rifles to flat and populated sounds like northern Indiana. ILL northern Ohio no rifle season please let this be bad idea that has gone far enough!!!! Anyone who votes yes to this should be held responsible for the injuries/death of the people! Putting rifles in the hands of everyone is crazy and clueless thinking!!! VOTE NO

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 8:01:55 AM

**Commenter Name** Chuck Tower  
**City** Lanesville, IN **County** CRAWFORD **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** rtower00@aol.com

**Comments** 1. Will this shorten the season, KY has a shorter season & harvest just as many animals yearly.  
 2. @015 Season?  
 3. Park hunts rifle or shotgun??

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 9:48:00 AM

**Commenter Name** Aaron Klabunde  
**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** aaron@jimpstudio.com

**Comments** I am an Indiana outdoorsman, gun owner, and hunter, and I am firmly opposed to the proposed changes to the rifle cartridges allowed for deer hunting. I am very concerned about the lethal range of these rounds given the topography, population density, and low forest density of my county and most surrounding counties.

"Muzzleloaders have evolved to the point that with smokeless powder (which is legal to use), they are essentially a high-powered rifle (accurate 500-yard gun)."

COMMENT: Not so, muzzle velocities of a Muzzleloader firing a sabot (i.e. a jacketed .45 cal round) has maximum muzzle velocities nearly half that of many high velocity centerfires, such as a 25-06. The even flatter trajectories and exceptional ballistic coefficients of modern rifles poses a public hazard in most of North Central Indiana. The comparison of high velocity rifle rounds with modern muzzleloaded rounds is not a fair comparison. Additionally, in Indiana, "uneducated" and unsafe hunters are far less likely to hunt with a muzzleloader, so accidents are much less common.

"They are legal in several nearby states, including Kentucky, Michigan (the northern part of the state) and Pennsylvania."

COMMENT: These nearby regions are NOT topographically similar to most of Indiana and also have far greater forestation than most of Indiana. High velocity centerfire rifles pose a far greater risk of accident in at least 50% of Indiana than they would in the states/regions used as examples.

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 9:57:53 AM

**Commenter Name** Robert Ramsey  
**City** Louisville **County** JEFFERSON **State** Kentucky  
**E-Mail Address** gramsey@twc.com

**Comments** Approve of changes in allowing larger rifles for modern gun season.

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 11:08:51 AM

**Commenter Name** Tony Martin  
**City** Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** a\_martin3927@yahoo.com

**Comments** I do not not like the idea of using rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. There are to many hunters in close proximity to other hunters and personal property. Im afraid more accidents will happen that could result in death and damage to property will happen.

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 12:00:41 PM

**Commenter Name** Bernard Sawyer  
**City** Piercetown **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** melbern777@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am very concerned about the proposed changes on the use of high powered rifles. I hunt and truly enjoy hunting, I own a farm with livestock pastured on the farm. Because of hunting on the land adjoining my property I bring the livestock to a front pasture to keep them away from the deer hunters. We are my opinion too closely populated to allow the unlimited restrictions on high powered rifles. I hear your comment on the modern muzzleloader, but there are not as many muzzleloaders in the woods and because of their one shot limitation, they are nearly as inclined to shoot at questionable moving targets. As I stated at the beginning, I am a hunter, love to hunt and want to see everyone enjoy it, but we have a responsibility to keep it safe for the hunters and for those they come in contact with. Please reconsider the proposed high power rifle rule changes.

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 12:23:47 PM

<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Dan Scott  <b>City</b> Connersville <b>County</b> FAYETTE <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> dscott100@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I am not in favor of changing the legal deer rifle calibers. We, as hunters, have been able to manage the deer heard with the weapons available to us now. Why would the hunters of Indiana and the State of Indiana want to open them self to the possible of more accidents when we are achieving our goals now.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 12:37:14 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> DeWayne Feltner  <b>City</b> Nashville <b>County</b> BROWN <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Dfeltner@macbeath.com  <b>Comments</b> I live in a area where there are a lot of 10 acres plots, I think a rifle bigger than we have now would be very dangerous. I really don't want my home to be a unsafe place to live. I vote NO on high powered rifles. Thank you  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 1:04:43 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> James Farlie Jr  <b>City</b> La Porte <b>County</b> LAPORTE <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> j.farlie@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> If Indiana adopts the proposed new rifle rules outlined for the legal taking of deer, restrictions such as "Only from treestands" or "Only if a downward shooting angle is established" should also be added to the rule to make the new rule as safe for hunters and the public as possible.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 1:30:13 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Rance Glingie  <b>City</b> Bourbon <b>County</b> MARSHALL <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> ranceglingie@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I am in opposition of rifle being utilized for deer hunting and especially adding larger rifles to the approved list of equipment. Responsible hunters like myself will be put in jeopardy by people using large rifles and not being aware of the extended range of shots that they will take. Archery, shotgun, and muzzleloaders are more than sufficient for deer hunting. Rifles for deer hunting in Indiana dont have a place because of the relatively flat areas and high population on homes and cars on the roads.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 1:31:01 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Matt McGraw  <b>City</b> Connersville <b>County</b> FAYETTE <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mdmcmgraw44@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> We control our deer population well with the guns that are legal now. I am not in favor of high powered rifles. I feel that they would be too dangerous for no real gain.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 2:48:49 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Dola Mooney  <b>City</b> Auburn <b>County</b> DEKALB <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mooney5103@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> My husband, Micheal Mooney &amp; I are strongly against allowing high powered rifles to be used for hunting. Both our neighbors &amp; we have had holes shot in our houses. Also some equipment damage. This county is too populated to allow high powered rifles for hunting. It is not safe. Hopefully enough people have the same opinion &amp; write in.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 3:04:36 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Kerry Norris  <b>City</b> Fort Wayne <b>County</b> ALLEN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> kerryrrrs2@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> 312IAC9-3-3 Do not change the rule as now stands  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 3:24:32 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Alex Reynolds  <b>City</b> Angola <b>County</b> STEUBEN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> buster7123@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> I am opposed to the proposal of allowing assault style guns to be used when hunting deer. I live in northeastern Indiana where there are few large wooded areas. Most people hunt in small wooded plots and marginal tree lines near open fields. I feel that any "reasonable " person would agree that these types of guns would put the public at an increased risk of harm. I hunt and I have a license to carry concealed. I am not opposed to firearms being used responsibly. I feel this will make it more appealing (easier) for any yahoo to just "shoot" and not hunt deer. Our county is criss crossed with count roads houses and open fields. Someone WILL be killed by one of these rifles that would not have if the firearm was a shotgun. I do not believe that the references to no increased human death rate in Pennsylvania, Kentucky or northern Michigan apply to northern Indiana. The lower part of Michigan's lower peninsula does not allow assault style rifles, take you cue from them if you want to compare "other" states  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/9/2014 4:05:20 PM</p>

**Commenter Name** chris kirkpatrick  
**City** rockport **County** SPENCER **State** indiana  
**E-Mail Address** ckirkpatrick@umillc.com  
**Comments** I see no reason to change the firearm rule. There is no reason a person can't harvest deer with the firearm laws we have in place now, Just more accidents will come of it.  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 4:53:38 PM

**Commenter Name** Curtis Anderson  
**City** Waterloo **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** curtsueanderson@hotmail.com  
**Comments** Rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 sec. 3 paragraph D line 4  
 I am totally against this proposed change. All my hunting life it has been deemed unsafe here in Indiana to use these high power rifles for deer hunting.  
 The population has only risen with many of these folks building in rural settings. One can't go a 1/4 mile without there being a house. Maybe in the southern part of the state this is not the case but in central and northern regions it certainly is true. I would love to have enough faith in my fellow Hoosiers that they would always use common sense when deer hunting but years of experience do not allow this. This change is just not safe and is not necessary. Thank You  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 5:03:42 PM

**Commenter Name** Tim McCormick  
**City** Mill Creek **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** trooper6189@gmail.com  
**Comments** As a lifelong resident, hunter and a police firearms instructor, I have concerns about the use of certain types of rifle calibers for hunting deer in Indiana. I do appreciate that a "high power/velocity" cartridge is more than capable of harvesting a whitetail deer. However all of the currently allowed firearms are capable of this task too. With the modern shotgun, muzzleloading and current allowed rifle calibers out there, an EXPERIENCED shooter who knows the potential and limitations of their weapons are capable of harvesting deer in excess of 150 yards. With a weapon that an expert is capable of delivering an accurate shot with in excess of one mile, I fear that too many novice hunters/shooters will shoot attempt to make shots that exceed THEIR experience and capabilities. Even as a police firearms instructor, I question the safety of me using such a cartridge on my father's farm of almost 300 acres on rural St. Joseph County. Having instructed firearms training for hundreds of police officers over the years, I even question if many of them should be carrying .223 caliber patrol rifles, despite their training due to their lack of comprehension of that weapons range and potential. I do not foresee a major issue should the maximum cartridge case length should be removed to allow cartridges such as the 45/70 Government. But to allow higher velocity cartridges (bottlenecked) is unnecessary and potentially reckless. I would request that should this commission should decide to permit the use of the proposed high power/velocity calibers that closely considered restrictions should apply. First off, I would suggest that such calibers should not be allowed on public hunting areas (state parks, fish and wildlife areas) with high hunter ratios. Also I believe that it would be reckless to permit these cartridges to be used in "Urban" hunting zones. I would propose that this be tested for a few years in rural counties before it is implemented statewide should this commission adopt this change.

Respectfully,  
 Tim McCormick  
 (219) 851-2701

**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 5:09:51 PM

**Commenter Name** Mark Ruby  
**City** Crawfordsville **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** alamor7@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I support the change in the rifle cartridge of .243 and larger and do away with the case length restriction. I also support the changes in being able to dispatch nuisance animals.  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 5:37:35 PM

**Commenter Name** Kent Hopper  
**City** Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** khhopper@comcast.net  
**Comments** My comment pertains to proposed changes to 312 IAC 9-3-3 that would make changes to "Equipment for deer hunting".

The proposed changes would legalize, without restriction on maximum size or caliber, high-powered rifles for use during the Indiana firearms deer season. I did not see any language to restrict the use of high capacity magazines such as those found on AK-47 or AR-15-type rifles nor did I see restrictions on which counties high powered rifles would be allowed in. Perhaps restrictions could be added.

I believe that rifles chambered in calibers such as 30-30 and .35 Remington could be used safely and responsibly within Indiana to deer hunt. But I think that more thought is required before high powered rifles are legalized for deer hunting in densely populated areas, particularly those that fringe cities like Indianapolis and Fort Wayne.

I think that the safety of the general public "trumps" deer hunters' desires to use more powerful and accurate weapons. And I don't think that shooting at deer with a high powered rifle is a good idea when it is done in immediate proximity to densely populated areas, or when it is done on overcrowded public hunting land such as Atterbury Fish and Wildlife Area.

In addition, I hope that language will be added—if it isn't already there—that would prevent the use of detachable magazines with a capacity in excess of five rounds. An anti-hunting news crew filming "deer hunters" armed with AK-47's and high capacity magazines is something that our sport does not need.

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 5:50:46 PM**

**Commenter Name** Steven Inman

**City** DeMotte **County** JASPER **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** stevenminman@yahoo.com

**Comments** The amendment to add using a rifle during firearms seasons for deer is good, as long as, the hunter is hunting from an elevated stand and NOT hunting from a ground blind.

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 6:46:36 PM**

**Commenter Name** Chris Jarels

**City** Greenfield **County** HANCOCK **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** cjarels@att.net

**Comments** I agree with the changing the firearms rule to delete the minimum case length for rifle cartridge. Shotgun slugs are more dangerous and less accurate than rifles. A shotgun slug is designed to bust through brush and thick cover, rifle bullets will normally fragment, and come apart. As far as distance a rifle will travel, it's a non issue, most woods are too thick to take 300 yard shot anyway. We already have sabot shotgun shells, pistols that fire rifle rounds, muzzleloaders that can reach 200 yards and rules that allow any legal weapon for coyotes we might as well be able to hunt deer with a weapon that has more accuracy. Thank you for your time

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 6:56:48 PM**

**Commenter Name** mike spear

**City** westfield **County** HAMILTON **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** catseyes10@comcast.net

**Comments** rule changes are appropriate. Also changes to the type of firearms we can use is also appropriate.

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 7:01:52 PM**

**Commenter Name** robert greene

**City** mountvernon **County** POSEY **State** in

**E-Mail Address** mvmaint83@aol.com

**Comments** my concern is with the rule of the rifle cartridge max length, I hunt public ground in posey co. with a higher caliber of rifle with semi auto will be VERY dangerous with the flat ground and careless hunters, I hear so many hunters and I have seen them shoot 3-5 shots in succession please reconsider this rule change. a muzzleloader will allow only one shot at a long distance rather than a semi auto high caliber rifle

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 7:25:27 PM**

**Commenter Name** gary l. schmucker

**City** bremen **County** MARSHALL **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** gschmucker87@gmail.com

**Comments** I don't like the "rifle proposal". Im a dedicated ethical hunter and I would NOT feel safe with all these reckless maniacs out there unloading on deer 400 yds away! IT mentions that other states use rifles such as PA, KY, and upper MI they have hills, lots of them, and probably not as populated. How come you didn't mention Illinois and Ohio? They are most similar to Indiana and they don't use rifles to hunt deer, take note.

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 8:31:01 PM**

**Commenter Name** Mark a. Rothgeb

**City** Monroeville **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Stoneyroth@aol.com

**Comments** If hi powered rifles is to be allowed they should be from an elevated position of 12ft and only 3 rounds allowed in the weapon

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 9:08:17 PM**

**Commenter Name** Randy Lehman

**City** Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Rlehman@elkhartcountysheriff.com

**Comments** With densely populated counties like Elkhart, St. Joseph & many others, I do not see the need to use high powered rifle rounds to deer hunt. If someone can not harvest a deer with the gear currently allowed, they shouldn't be in the field. Also, with the poaching problems all counties experience, this is opening the door for unethical individuals who already break the law to shoot from even longer distances with no due regard for other humans that could be beyond their shots. Being an avid hunter, shooter and gun supporter, I oppose this law change as I feel the negative outweighs the positive.

**Comment Received 12/9/2014 10:09:51 PM**

**Commenter Name** Roy McCarter  
**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** In  
**E-Mail Address** rmccarter01@comcast.net  
**Comments** Most lakes are over populated with Sunfish, over time a 25 sunfish daily limit will harm the food production of these lakes. Sunfish multiply at a fast rate and they eat a lot of plant food, I'm not sure what the advantage will be creating more (small) fish with less food to grow. I fish several lakes in northern Indiana and give a lot of fish to people who don't or can't fish, but love to eat them. I also spend hundred's of dollars each year to enjoy fishing for panfish in Indiana. It will be very costly for everyone to only keep 25 sunfish each fishing trip. I hope the state of Indiana will reconsider this rule change.  
 Thank you,  
 Roy McCarter  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 10:18:15 PM

**Commenter Name** Tony Dittmar  
**City** Union City **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** tdittmar@embarqmail.com  
**Comments** I have a concern about the proposed rifle cartridge change. Indiana is to be populated to be shooting high powered rifles with no maximum case length restrictions. Just think about it, this means anybody could hunt with a 30/06, 7mm Remington mag, 300 win mag or bigger! I love to hunt and sport shoot and have a few rifles in these calibers myself, but they do not have a safe place for the Indiana deer firearm season! There are a lot of trigger happy deer hunters that just sling lead out of their gun as fast as they can pull the trigger when they see a deer, even if the deer is not in a practical range for a safe clean shot. Lets stick with the lower yardage rifle laws we have now. We have more than enough fire power! Or at least limit the cases to 2.100 maximum case length. Thanks for the opportunity to let me express some of my concerns. Tony Dittmar  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 10:43:37 PM

**Commenter Name** Chris Drew  
**City** Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** greypilgrim76@gmail.com  
**Comments** I am very much in favor of this rule change.  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 10:49:16 PM

**Commenter Name** Dalton Carver  
**City** Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** Coolrider1080@hotmail.com  
**Comments** I believe that it is finally a good time to incorporate high powered rifles into the deer hunting of Indiana, one main concern though is that a .243 is a very fast round and since I own one myself I am overly excited to possibly get to use it for deer but a heavier bullet would be the best option in my opinion to slow the round down and just add to the safety of what's beyond your target.  
**Comment Received** 12/9/2014 11:32:23 PM

**Commenter Name** David Peters  
**City** Hebron **County** PORTER **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** d.s.peters1102@gmail.com  
**Comments** I am against the rule change for hunting deer with high powered rifles, I don't feel that they are needed I can harvest every deer under twenty yards with my archery equipment, if anything shorten the firearm season and allow archery equipment to fill all season tag's. Over last couple of years I have seen a lot less deer. Time to reduce the number of antlerless permits  
**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 12:59:38 AM

**Commenter Name** James Coffey  
**City** Edinburgh **County** SHELBY **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** coffey.james@sbcglobal.net  
**Comments** The adoption of taking the restrictions away from the legal deer firearms is a dangerous move. I for one know this is a fact. I have been a police officer for over twenty years. I am a active hunter with over 25 years of a active deer hunter. I am very knowledgeable in the field of firearms and ballistics of different types of ammo. What I am about to present is factual information and I challenge anyone to contest it.

Quote from DNR Web Site;

"Muzzleloaders have evolved to the point that with smokeless powder (which is legal to use), they are essentially a high-powered rifle (accurate 500-yard gun)."

I can not find any company currently manufacturing a "Smokeless Powder Muzzle Loader" Savage did produce them but no longer offers them.

The State of Illinois has outlawed the use of "Smokeless Powder Muzzle Loaders" for deer hunting.

Quote from DNR Web Site;

"They are legal in several nearby states, including Kentucky, Michigan (the northern part of the state) and Pennsylvania."

These states do not have the concentration of population that Indiana has. Here is a break down .

Indiana Square Miles 35418 Population 6.571 185.197 persons per sq/mile

Michigan Square Miles 96716 Population 9.896 102.320 persons per sq/mile

Kentucky Square Miles 40409 Population 4.395 108.763 persons per sq/mile

No Data of person per square mile in Northern Pennsylvania.

Quote from DNR Web Site;

"There has been no increase in hunting-related accidents as the result of the use of rifles, neither in Indiana nor in several other states where they are allowed"

The types of rifles in question are currently not allowed to be used as a deer hunting weapon in Indiana, so this statement has no validity. This is a misleading statement from the DNR. This statement is trying to lure people to agree with this rule change. This is uncalled for.

Quote from DNR Web Site;

"There isn't a need to limit the equipment that can be used to take deer in order to manage the deer herd. The deer harvest was a record in 2012, and the DNR is managing the deer herd through other means"

If the DNR number cruncher would take the number of deer license's sold compared to the number of deer harvested and compare it from year to year, they could see that the ratio of successful deer hunters are down. More people are purchasing hunting licenses. From my observations and talking with many other experienced deer hunters the deer numbers have been decreasing for many years.

Quote from DNR Web Site;

Rifle cartridges that fire a bullet at least .243 in diameter and have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches long can safely and humanely kill white-tailed deer.

This is a true statement.

If a hunter uses a high powered rifle and is not knowledgeable of the potential killing range of the rifle he/she is using, they really putting him/herself in a position to lose a civil lawsuit if they accidentally shoot someone or something. This said hunter would be found negligent.

Please take this in consideration:

This is a comparison of energy (ft/lbs) of proposed firearms and current legal firearms.

Current Legal Firearms (2 samples)

12 Gauge 1795 ft/lbs @100yds 1199ft/lbs @200yds N/A@ 500yds

50cal Muzzleloader 2238 ft/lbs @100yds 1685 ft/lbs @200yds N/A@ 500yds

Proposed Firearms (2 samples)

300Win Mag 3297 ft/lbs @100yds 2918 ft/lbs @200yds 1980 ft/lbs @ 500yards

.50BMG 12,386 ft/lbs @100yds 11,619 ft/lbs @200yds 9538 ft/lbs @ 500yds

This info is straight from the Hornady Ballistic Charts. (Hornady is a major manufacture of ammo)

Please stop this proposal and study it more. Let someone else other than the insurance companies help make decisions for the DNR.

<p>Thanks, James D. Coffey  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/10/2014 3:34:16 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> James Conrad  <b>City</b> Hometown <b>County</b> ALLEN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> ccjconrad@msn.com  <b>Comments</b> The Indiana DNR's number one concern should be hunter safety. Deer hunting with repeating high powered rifles in northern and central Indiana is extremely dangerous where the terrain is relatively flat and/or densely populated. If the law is changed to allow it, I will quit deer hunting and you will find that many landowners will prohibit deer hunting on their land accordingly. I am appalled that deer hunting with repeating high powered rifles is being considered. Every Indiana Conservation Officer I have spoken to regarding this is against it. That in itself should tell you it is unsafe.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/10/2014 7:46:53 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Scott Simons  <b>City</b> Idaville <b>County</b> WHITE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> idavillefire2@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> In reference to the proposed changes in dia. and length of rifle cartridges. I am concerned with the safety of allowing "high power rifles". Given the ballistics of such cartridges, I feel the population density and flat terrain of my county is not compatible with their use. I say this as a deer hunter of 25+ years. In my informal discussions with other hunters in my area, I have not spoken with anyone who favors this change. Perhaps such calibers could have designated counties. Ones with terrain and population levels more suitable to the range and trajectory of such cartridges.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/10/2014 7:48:07 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jim Helwig  <b>City</b> Vallonia <b>County</b> JACKSON <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mjhelwig23@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> Under section 312 IAC 9-3-3 change rifle bullet size from .357 to .243 or larger. This may cause a safety issue with the distance that the bullet can carry. At 200-400 yds plus, an individual sitting along a field more than likely will not be seen. I understand the reason for the proposed change, but feel that this may cause serious injury.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/10/2014 8:20:01 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Paul Vice  <b>City</b> Seymour <b>County</b> JACKSON <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> paul.a.vice@cummins.com  <b>Comments</b> My response is in opposition to the proposal to change high power rifle calibers for deer hunting. This state has made several changes to deer season and weapons in recent years. We have not yet seen the results of those changes. The deer harvest is trending downward already. Adding weapon range will result in more shooting opportunity. More shooting opportunity will result in more deer killed....and I don't believe that is needed at this time.   There is also the safety factor. I don't care what data or study results are provided in support. A weapon that fires a projectile which can maintain a trajectory 2X, 4X or 6X further than current legal weapons is inherently more dangerous.   Please strike this proposal from the package.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/10/2014 8:22:40 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Amos McAdams  <b>City</b> Paoli <b>County</b> ORANGE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> mcadams07@netzero.net  <b>Comments</b> I really can't believe a limit of 25 bluegill is even being considered. There are a lot of us in orange and Crawford that fish for only panfish and none of them will go to the lake for 25 fish! The time and money it takes to get to the lake is too much. I would think that the small lakes, like we like to fish, will get over populated and there won't be any size to the fish! This change should be rethought.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/10/2014 8:37:19 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Cory Beals  <b>City</b> Kokomo <b>County</b> HOWARD <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> sallad2852@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I don't know that this is the proper form for this comment, but I don't believe that high powered rifles should be allowed for deer season. Yes, muzzle loaders are allowed and accurate out to a long distance but the number of people using them isn't close to the number using shotguns. And yes, there are no restrictions on guns used for other game, but are there the number of hunters out on one weekend (opening day of deer) hunting other game...no. I don't want to worry about a rifle round coming through the wall of my house with my wife and kids. Not every hunter is knowledgeable enough to know trajectory or be aware of their background, or even care. Shooting in the direction of houses across an open field is a recipe for disaster. Again, I think it comes down to the number of hunters out in the field for deer. The other game animals just don't have the number of hunters out that deer do. Please do not amend the rule that defines a firearm.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/10/2014 8:48:41 AM</p>



**Commenter Name** Bill Kazmierczak  
**City** South Bend **County** ST.JOSEPH **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** billkaz@sbcglobal.net  
**Comments** I would like to comment on the proposal of being able to use rifles for our deer hunting season. I am in favor of this proposal, due to the fact that there are places that I have hunted where a rifle cartridge would of been a more favorable option for the hunting situation. I have hunted down in southern Indiana, where I have spotted deer past my comfort zone of shooting deer with a shotgun slug. I didn't take the shot for obvious reasons of wounding an animal and not being able to recover it. I think for the correct situation, being able to choose what weapon to use is a great opportunity for us hunters.  
 I would ask that the stipulation be made that if you are using a rifle in the field, the hunter must be in a tree stand or elevated stand, so the hunter is actually pointing the barrel towards the ground when shooting. I know there are possibilities of the bullet ricocheting off an object in the ground, but it is better than shooting straight across land and missing your target all together.  
 I would suggest looking at the laws and statistics in a state like Pennsylvania, who has used rifles in their hunting seasons for years. For as many hunters that they have in the state, there are very few accidents due to the use of rifles. They even have laws pertaining to how the firearm is handled out of the field after hunting.  
 It still boils down to the hunter having the proper training and common sense. Unfortunately, Common Sense isn't common to everyone.  
 Thank you for looking over the laws and coming to the conclusion that it would be beneficial for the hunter of Indiana to be able to use rifles in the field for hunting.  
**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 10:14:00 AM

**Commenter Name** j marlow  
**City** corydon **County** HARRISON **State** in  
**E-Mail Address** jaymarlow15@yahoo.com  
**Comments** re-uses of high powerd rifle for deer hunting --your comment that a muzzel loader will shoot 500 yards arcuritley is wrong even with smokless powder it will not happen. as for rifles you ar going to have guys out with AK 47 and SKS asalt rifles shooting up the woods you need to think this out before doing this/  
**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 10:32:07 AM

**Commenter Name** CARL WALKER  
**City** Pennville **County** JAY **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** soil@centurylink.net  
**Comments** 312 IAC 9-3-3 I DO NOT SUPPORT ADDING RIFLES TO APPROVED FIREARMS LIST. OUR AREA IS TOO POPULATED AND OPEN. THE RANGE AND TRAJECTORY OF RIFLES CREATES AN UNNECESSARY RISK TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY. ADDITIONALLY AS A LAND OWNER I ALREADY HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE WITH HUNTERS SITTING ON THE PROPERTY LINE SHOOTING AT DEER ON OUR LAND. THE USE OF LONGER RANGE RIFLES WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE HUNTERS TO ATTEMPT MORE ILL ADVISED SHOTS AND RESULT IN MORE HUNTER/LANDOWNER CONFRONTATIONS. IF A HUNTER CAN'T GET A DEER WITH ALL THE FIREARMS AND BOWS AVAILABLE NOW MAYBE THEY SHOULD JUST BUY MEAT AT THE STORE.  
**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 10:40:08 AM

**Commenter Name** Daniel M. Petry  
**City** Bristol **County** ELKHART **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** danpetry@frontier.com  
**Comments** I am in favor of the 25 per day sunfish bag limit and feel it is long overdue.  
**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 10:43:38 AM

**Commenter Name** Chad Soard  
**City** Frankfort **County** Out of State **State** KY  
**Organization (optional)** Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources  
**E-Mail Address** chad.soard@ky.gov  
**Comments** I am providing this comment in support of the proposed amendments to Section 10. 312 IAC 9-3-18.6 regarding wild pigs. The growing interest in wild pig sport hunting has driven the anthropogenic, and often criminal, spread of this invasive species across the USA to a point where 40 states report established populations. The perception of wild pigs as a hunting opportunity is certainly an undermining force in the presence of professional coordinated eradication efforts and may entrench the desire to maintain this invasive species on the landscaper by those who enjoy pursuing them. The proposed changes will remove incentives associated with a wild pig presence on the landscape and strengthen enforcement efforts related to criminal wild pig possession and release. These amendments are well-advised and consistent with recommendations to state agencies by the Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies As Hoc Feral Swine Committee in their 2014 State Summary Report. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Sincerely, Chad Soard, KDFWR  
**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 10:54:56 AM

**Commenter Name** Ryan Day  
**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** INDIANA  
**E-Mail Address** ryanday@andymohr.com

**Comments** I'm in favor of the proposed rule changes listed.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 11:13:21 AM

**Commenter Name** robert morgan

**City** union city **County** RANDOLPH **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** parts.greenville@koenigequipment.com

**Comments** Go ahead and open up rifles .243 and above nothing is gonna be hurt by this law change. People have already beat the system and built their own. Atleast will be using rifles made by manufacturers and not individuals. It is a great idea to allow this.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 12:13:22 PM

**Commenter Name** Paul Dreisbach

**City** Winona Lake **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** dreisbach.paul@gmail.com

**Comments** I support changing the firearms rule for deer season to allow high powered rifles to be used to hunt deer.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 12:33:38 PM

**Commenter Name** Jason Tillison

**City** Rushville **County** RUSH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jasantillison@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am commenting on the proposed rifle regulation section.

I believe that the proposal should be passed and I'll explain why.

As mentioned on the dnr website, a smoke less muzzle loader is capable of a 500yrd accurate shot. If we take in to consideration the legal pistol caliber requirement, one will find that nearly all rifle cartridges are legal, including the ones not legal in rifle currently.

For example, I can legally hunt with a pistol chambered in 308 Winchester, but not in a rifle. I can legally hunt with a pistol chambered in 243 Winchester, but not in a rifle. It even goes as far as a 50BMG would be legal in a pistol, but not a rifle. Pistol has a minimum length requirement, but no maximum length. I can name probably 100 cartridges that are legal in a pistol, but not in a rifle.

Just as an example, the 308 Winchester (legal in pistol) has a max effective range of 1,300 in the hands on a properly trained sniper. It doesn't matter if it's in a rifle or a pistol, it's the same cartridge. Most available shots in Indiana are at a maximum of 300yds on a good day.

My point is simple. The cartridge requirements are already legal for use in a pistol, why not in a rifle. A rifle is substantially more accurate and a much steadier platform to hunt with even in the hands of the average hunter. It would be much safer aswell.

These cartridges are already legal for hunting other game in Indiana, so it only makes sense to pass the regulation to allow the caliber expansion and remove the maximum length regulation.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Jason Tillison

RET USMC/INARG

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 1:30:40 PM

**Commenter Name** M Thomas

**City** Cross Plains **County** RIPLEY **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** mkthomas@seidata.com

**Comments** I OPPOSE allowing rifles for hunting deer. It will become shooting at deer instead of the sport of Hunting.

Farm States like Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, etc. do not allow rifles for many reasons, including farmer safety, the public safety, and trying to keep any "Wannabe Deer Shooters" from sitting in their vehicle and shooting.

It is Hunting, not shooting. Real Hunters use Archery and single shot firearms (Muzzleloaders and Shotguns).

It doesn't make sense for hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 1:36:49 PM

**Commenter Name** Jessica Warfel

**City** Martinsville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jessicawarfel@gmail.com

**Comments** There is no longer a reason to ban center fire rifles in Indiana. With modern technology, today's slug guns and muzzleloaders have as large of an effective range as CF rifles with much more deadly ricochet effects than a CF rifle. There have been numerous ballistic studies done by various entities to demonstrate this. We have used firearms comparable in power and range to a CF rifle in Indiana for decades now with very small percentage of firearm related accidents. In addition CF rifles are routinely used by predator and varmint hunters in Indiana already. If the concern by the DNR regarding using

CF rifles centers on the supposed increase success rate of harvest, then I would suggest that DNR decrease the amount of antlerless permits that are issued to help keep the deer population from declining unfavorably.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 4:43:31 PM

**Commenter Name** Ray T. Jahn

**City** Dubois **County** DUBOIS **State** In.

**E-Mail Address** gwarden74@yahoo.com

**Comments** I would appose the proposal that would allow rifles of .243 or for deer hunting. Allowing this would put an extremely large number of long range firearms in the flatlands of Indiana, close to populated and residential areas with little or potential for a backstop. For decades we were told that this was a safety issue. It would be hard to believe that with the housing and residential expansion across the state that these safety issues still exist. With todays concern about public opinion toward hunting I would not recommend this be implemented. Most hunters seem to be pretty pleased with the firearm choices already offered. Thanks

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 4:46:17 PM

**Commenter Name** John Peirick

**City** Munster **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jpeirick@munster.org

**Comments** The rifle portion of this law is very important. Indiana should have gone to rifle hunting years ago.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 5:01:12 PM

**Commenter Name** James Godfrey

**City** Wawaka **County** NOBLE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jimgodfrey77@yahoo.com

**Comments** I absolutely disagree with the allowance of high powered rifles. Our terrain is to flat, much like that of lower Michigan where they are not allowed. I do not believe they are necessary to harvest more deer. I'm absolutely positive they will be a danger not only to hunters, but also non hunters as well in there homes. I am 100 percent against this portion of the proposed rule change.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 5:49:04 PM

**Commenter Name** James Godfrey

**City** Wawaka **County** NOBLE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jimgodfrey77@yahoo.com

**Comments** I absolutely disagree with the allowance of high powered rifles. Our terrain is to flat, much like that of lower Michigan where they are not allowed. I do not believe they are necessary to harvest more deer. I'm absolutely positive they will be a danger not only to hunters, but also non hunters as well in there homes. I am 100 percent against this portion of the proposed rule change.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 5:50:17 PM

**Commenter Name** anthony schmucker

**City** nappanee **County** MARSHALL **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** a.schmucker2@icloud.com

**Comments** I don't think this is a good idea Indiana is way to flat to allow any high powered rifle . To many people with not enough common sense !

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 7:43:34 PM

**Commenter Name** Kelley Hicks

**City** Springville **County** LAWRENCE **State** In

**E-Mail Address** luv2run4fun@hotmail.com

**Comments** As a female hunter, I fully support legalizing rifles .243 and larger for deer.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 8:22:02 PM

**Commenter Name** Robert J. Buksar

**City** Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** In

**E-Mail Address** bbuksar@hotmail.com

**Comments** I am a senior citizen with a lifetime license and avid deer hunter. For over 40 years I've been an NRA certified rifle, pistol, shotgun, personal protection and home firearm safety instructor. I profoundly believe that allowing high power rifle hunting in Indiana is a serious and dangerous mistake. Indiana is NOT a prairie state nor a wilderness. Even Michigan does not allow high power in the lower half of their state. Indiana should not consider the use of high power rifles either. In the hands of the untrained or inexperienced, a high power rifle can have extremely long range consequences. The thought of an excited young hunter with 'buck fever' and a magazine full of 30.06 can be scary. Sure, there are wide open spaces in Indiana, but there are also plenty of hunted areas that are not. There are lots of homes and roads to consider that could easily be in the range of the high power. Again, Indiana is not a prairie state. Thank you for your cosideration.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 8:30:56 PM

**Commenter Name** Jared Reynolds

**City** Rockville **County** PARKE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jaredreynolds529@yahoo.com

**Comments :** Section 4. 312 IAC 9-3-2 General Requirements and licenses for hunting deer and Section 14. 312 IAC 9-4-11 Wild Turkeys

I do Agree with these new changes. However I do not agree that an individual can check in there own game. I believe an official check in station is responsible for inputing the information when checking game. A party could easily lie on the system and process that game without being caught and affect our states game estimates ie: male,female, size. This also is my opionion and I think that not having to go to a check in station is pulling buisness oppurtunintys away from our local sporting shops.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 8:43:28 PM

**Commenter Name** Kristopher W Kimbley  
**City** Bedford County LAWRENCE State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** kkimbley80@yahoo.com

**Comments** I support the use of high powered rifles .243 and higher.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 8:54:09 PM

**Commenter Name** Matt Bernet  
**City** Orleans County ORANGE State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** bernet\_stg@yahoo.com

**Comments** I strongly support the use of rifles for the hunting of deer. For 20 years I lived in an area of a state with very similar topography to Southern Indiana. Rifles were are legal for deer there and there use resulted in less lost deer due to being wounded. This is is due in part to the ability of hunters to place accurate shots much easier than heavy recoiling less accurate shotguns. When used properly with good judgement like all firearms should be used Rifles will make deer hunting much more popular with recoil sensitive people including youth, small statured people and the disabled.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 9:19:47 PM

**Commenter Name** Darin Blackburn  
**City** Bedford County LAWRENCE State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** darin1762@yahoo.com

**Comments** I support the proposal for using high powered rifles for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 9:35:36 PM

**Commenter Name** Tim Thorne  
**City** Goshen County ELKHART State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** timbthorne@gmail.com

**Comments** When I moved to Indiana in 1995 I was very disappointed that after hunting deer with a high powered rifle since age 8 I would now be using a shotgun in my new home state. Nearly 20 years later I see the wisdom in this limit on fire power in Indiana. And while I continue to use and enjoy a rifle in the two or three states I hunt outside of Indiana on occasion I think bringing those guns to the fence rows and fields of Indiana would be foolish.

There are problems with the provided statements offered in support of this proposal. First, I do not believe any ethical hunter would attempt to kill a deer at 500 yards with a muzzleloader. At that distance even the specialized rifles advertised to launch a bullet to those distance do not suggest that the needed power continues for an ethical kill. The other glaring concern is that the reference calibers used are the 30-30 and 45-70. These are two old cartridges that have enjoyed a wide and persistent following. However, they are not the "beanfield" calibers that will also be out there in November. These other options popular in other open areas might well be considered 800 or 1000 yard rifles by hunters willing to push the envelope - and there are always a few!

Driving to work the other day from Goshen to Warsaw - just north of Leesburg - it occurred to me - what a crazy idea to allow this to pass with no effort on my part to say no.

Thank you, for your time and consideration of my thoughts.

**Comment Received** 12/10/2014 9:48:04 PM

**Commenter Name** Jeff Marlow  
**City** Andrews County HUNTINGTON State Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** bubbby440@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** as I read 312 IAC 9-3-3: proposed changes to deer hunting equipment for 2015, this change seems very vague.

as written/proposed this would allow such cartridges like the 270 Winchester, 7mm Remington Magnum, 30-06, 300 Winchester Magnum, .375 H&H Magnum & even the 50BMG to be legally used during firearm season. Personally, I think this could cause a problem with many deer not being pursued/recovered do to the greater range on these cartridges & a greater chance of houses/property/people being accidentally shot by inexperienced hunters.

If the rule change were to state a minimum of .284/7mm caliber & maximum OAL of 2.570 it would allow classic lever action cartridges like the 45-70, 444 Marlin, 35 Remington, 30-30 Winchester, 7-30 Waters & even the 7.62x39 to be legal

cartridges for rifles in firearm season. These cartridges do not have the extended ranges/power of cartridges that could be used under the proposed rule change & are more than sufficient to harvest Whitetail deer.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 1:30:43 AM

**Commenter Name** Matt Lindauer

**City** Huntingburg **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** mlindauer83@yahoo.com

**Comments** This rule proposal needs to happen. You've already listed the facts about the rifle caliber change for deer hunting. This would be a great change!

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 5:12:22 AM

**Commenter Name** Matt Sudhoff

**City** Coldwater **County** Out of State **State** Ohio

**E-Mail Address** sudhoffmatt@yahoo.com

**Comments** 312 IAC 9-3-3 proposed change to allow additional rifles has me concerned for myself and other hunters safety. I am a landowner in Jay Co. which is flat, NOT heavily woods, and densely populated. The thought of a neighboring hunter, or worse, a group of hunters pushing/running deer in the area where I hunt or even live is worrisome.

I do not see limitations stated for magazine capacity, as with an AR10 in a .308 platform that has the ability to hold a 30 round magazine.

I would also have to argue that in-line muzzleloaders are very accurate, but I would question the bullet trajectory and the factor that only one shot is capable per load with a muzzleloader. My point is that an inexperienced hunter that would not know the limitations of a gun, such as a rifle. And if that hunter decides to shoot beyond the rifles limitations, in an effort to hit a long distant running deer, that bullet or those NUMEROUS bullets will be getting sprayed over a very long distance with a HUGE potential to harm neighboring houses, property, or hunters. There are simply not enough natural backdrops - i.e. rolling hills, woods, etc. in a county like Jay County to substantiate the claims that this would be a SAFE IDEA. IF this becomes law, Please make this county specific. ANYONE who has hunted has seen or heard the WAR when a large deer is on the run and being pursued by a group of hunters.

The other items noted also seem contradictory. IF the herd is being managed with standard equipment, WHY change the equipment?

I know that deer herd and money drive all decisions, but please let common sense prevail here. There is NO GOOD that can come of this proposed law change.

Thanks for your time and considerations.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 7:29:14 AM

**Commenter Name** Matt Sudhoff

**City** Coldwater **County** Out of State **State** Ohio

**E-Mail Address** sudhoffmatt@yahoo.com

**Comments** 312 IAC 9-3-3 proposed change to allow additional rifles has me concerned for myself and other hunters safety. I am a landowner in Jay Co. which is flat, NOT heavily woods, and densely populated. The thought of a neighboring hunter, or worse, a group of hunters pushing/running deer in the area where I hunt or even live is worrisome.

I do not see limitations stated for magazine capacity, as with an AR10 in a .308 platform that has the ability to hold a 30 round magazine.

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The other items noted also seem contradictory. IF the herd is being managed with standard equipment, WHY change the equipment?

I know that deer herd and money drive all decisions, but please let common sense prevail here. There is NO GOOD that can come of this proposed law change.

Thanks for your time and considerations.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 7:29:58 AM

**Commenter Name** troy Hoffman  
**City** winamac **County** PULASKI **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** tdh5716@gmail.com  
**Comments** As a landowner and hunter I think the use if high powered rifles would be detrimental to deer hunting in Indiana . The terrain and people population doesn't make since to deer hunt with rifles. I think would be more accidents( homes, building's, and god forbid people) hit by errant bullets. Some of these gun that are already legal such as 358 Hoosier are already to much lucky not used much. Please think safety before passing this. If passed better make gun season about 4 days only or you'll wipe out all your quality buck managemen . Your neighboring state theory really Pennsylvania,the UP different terrain and not really neighbor's. While talking to my hunting buddies, local landowners I haven't found any support for this. Please don't let a select few people push this through for there own agenda. Thanks troy  
**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 8:32:43 AM

**Commenter Name** CJ Brinks  
**City** Goshen **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** cbrinks@cullipindustries.com  
**Comments** I am in favor of the changes for allowing larger cartridge rifles. These cartridges are already allowed for recreational shooting and shooting of nuisance animals. It would be nice to use them on deer as well. Also, these rounds are inherently more accurate eliminating some of the wounded animals. Currently, I use a 20 gauge rifled barrel shot gun. It is tough to hold a great pattern at 50-100 yards. I don't practice much with it knowing a good round it \$2 every time I pull the trigger. The round I would use if allowed would be a .308 Win. This round touches at 100 yards no problem. It is cheaper to load and shoot. Hope this is passed.  
**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 8:59:09 AM

**Commenter Name** David Cotner  
**City** Burnettsville **County** WHITE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** oldblindfart@gmail.com  
**Comments** In regard to your proposed rule changes in 312 IAC 9-7-10 adding a daily bag limit of 25 for bluegill, I would like to know if you have supporting data for this decision or if this is just speculation that it will "help maintain long-term fishing quality". It appears on the surface as being another example of government overreach in an effort to control peoples activities. I know several people that take annual trips to southern Indiana during the summer just to bring home lots of bluegill. Adding a bag limit will discourage such weekend outings since the reward will not be worth the cost of the gas, the camping, the boat fees, etc. I predict that there will be fewer such trips and revenue from camping fees, etc will be lower as a result. In 312 IAC 9-7-6 you state that Kunkel lake was drained in 2013 partially because of an overpopulation of small bluegill. Then you turned around and were restocking it to restore the balance between predator and prey. Seems to me that if you need more predators, the modern fishing techniques make fishermen a significant predator and that should be encouraged and not limited by this new ruling. If you have data that shows certain bodies of water need to have limits placed to restore balance then do it on an as-needed basis instead of clamping down on everywhere whether needed or not. The lack of heavy bluegill fishing due to this ruling could swing the balance in the opposite direction in the future just as easily as effecting your stated desired outcome of improving fishing quality.  
 In summary you state that an over abundance of small bluegill contributed to poor fishing at Kunkel lake but then you want to limit the fishermen from harvesting large numbers of the adult fish that will reproduce and create larger numbers of smaller fish. Your logic or mine has a flaw somewhere. I just want the fishing regulations to be based in facts with data to back up what you are doing.  
**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:12:35 AM

**Commenter Name** Orlanzo Chacon  
**City** New Haven **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** openseasontaxidermy@gmail.com  
**Comments** Im against the proposal for rifles next season. I beleave gun season is already to long of a season here in Indiana.  
 Thanks  
**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:13:23 AM

**Commenter Name** David Cotner  
**City** Burnettsville **County** WHITE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** oldblindfart@gmail.com  
**Comments** In regard to your proposed rule change in 312 IAC 9-5-6 allowing the use of air rifles to take game frogs, you do not specify what the definition of a legal air rifle is to be. I would like to point out that current production air rifles produce velocities of 1000-1200 feet per second and certain companies make solid lead pellets that weigh 30 grains. A standard 22 short has a 29 grain slug that has a muzzle velocity of 1045 feet per second according to standard specifications. Depending on what your definition of a legal air rifle is you might as well make a standard 22 short legal for taking game frogs. This would be an advantage in that most people already have a 22 rifle that would fire 22 short ammunition and would not have to purchase a new air rifle to hunt frogs. As to the noise generated I would like to point out that air rifles that exceed 1100 FPS will have just about as loud of a crack due to breaking the sound barrier when fired.  
 I'm sure someone will bring up the issue of skipping a slug on the water when frog hunting with a 22 short. This argument is moot since we are talking a 22 short that has lost a significant amount of its momentum after skipping compared to the new proposed rule changes for deer hunting that will allow a 30-06 to launch a slug weighing six times as much at a velocity

almost three times as fast. Skipping one of those off a frozen field is significantly more of a risk that a 22 short skipped off the water. Besides that, a pellet will also skip off the water just as well.

In conclusion I request that you consider making a 22 short a legal ammunition for game frog hunting. The actual data proves that the air rifle is not significantly different or less dangerous.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:16:12 AM

**Commenter Name** Dean L. Amstutz

**City** Berne **County** ADAMS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dnsamstutz@onlyinternet.net

**Comments** I feel that the legalizing the use of rifle cartridges for deer hunting in a predominantly flat terrain as that of Adams County is a dangerous endeavor.

Due mostly in part to the over harvesting of antlerless deer, our deer herd has been reduced to dangerous levels. We need action on your part to help our deer herd recover instead of continuing to allow its decline and additional means of causing this decline. Please help us.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:23:39 AM

**Commenter Name** Joseph M. Williams

**City** Princeton **County** GIBSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** joe.conservation@gmail.com

**Comments** The proposed rule change listed under 312 IAC 9-3-3 is a great idea. The restriction on rifles previously was silly considering the advancements in smokeless muzzle loaders as well as some of the wildcat rifle rounds like the .358 hoosier.

Opening up gun season to the use of actual rifles will also lead to a surge in sales of new firearms. Which will result in more Pittman Robertson dollars.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:52:33 AM

**Commenter Name** Pamala German

**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Pamger47@hotmail.com

**Comments** Please do not allow the use of high powered rifles for hunting! I live in a rural area with lots of hunting all around. As I look out my front window across a field I see the dense pine trees surrounding Pine Canyon Lake where a multitude of people live in homes surrounding that lake. The homes are not seen as you drive by so anyone with a high powered rifle shooting within a mile of these homes in their direction could injure or kill one of the inhabitants. I feel these guns will also encourage shooting from a vehicle which is illegal but has never stopped anyone in this area from doing so. I also fear for my safety as well as the safety of my son and family who live nearby. There of plenty of ways to hunt without using these guns! L

For once let government consider the welfare of all it's citizens instead of the whim of the few!!

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:53:39 AM

**Commenter Name** Bob Drummond

**City** Yorktown **County** DELAWARE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Rcd@depcoparts.com

**Comments** I think this is a great idea. Please do this!!!!

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:56:19 AM

**Commenter Name** adam drummond

**City** west lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** adrummo@purdue.edu

**Comments** Allow high powered rifles for deer!

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 10:22:01 AM

**Commenter Name** Chris orman

**City** English **County** CRAWFORD **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Corman1826@aol.com

**Comments** I don't think we need to allow the use of high powered rifles in southern Indiana! We have way to much government land down here which draws in hundreds of hunters. A bunch of them that do not care what they are shooting at or what's behind the target! I think it's going to cause more problems safety wise. If it is allowed I think it should be for private land only. But I am against it either way. Thank you

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 10:43:12 AM

**Commenter Name** David Dillman

**City** Williamsport **County** WARREN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** davidcdillman@gmail.com

**Comments** I would like to submit my suggestions to reject the proposed rule changes for 312 IAC 9-3-3 section D (4) on Deer hunting equipment.

The effective range of the firearms which would be allowed will be too great for Indiana hunting. I provide you with the following information gathered from message boards showing what people would consider effective ranges for the following calibers which would be legal under a new regulation change.

.243 - 500  
 .308 & .257 wby mag & .270 - 600  
 .300 Win - 800  
 .280 & 7mm Rem Mag - 1000+

These distances are just too long for Indiana and the spirit and tradition of Indiana hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 10:46:15 AM

**Commenter Name** Travis Clapp

**City** Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tclapp@phrehab.com

**Comments** I was born and raised in Marysville, IN (Clark county) and I currently reside in Evansville, IN (Vanderburgh County) The thought of legalizing the use of high powered rifle rounds greater than .243 frankly scares me as a hunter. This past season was my 22nd year hunting. I have never encountered a situation where I felt the need to be a good hunter and need a firearm that travels the distance of these type of rounds to harvest a deer. That isn't even the thing that bothers me the most about this rule change. It is the thought of "hunters" in the woods who "see brown and its down" these are the type of hunters that are shooting at deer that are running, behind thick brush, out in a wide open field etc. These guys are not mindful of what is beyond the target they are shooting at. I understand that Kentucky permits the use of high powered rounds, but the majority of KY is hilly/mountains. Unlike the majority of IN which is flat farm ground with small rolling hills. With this landscape it will allow these high powered rounds to travel a very far distance. I still hunt in both Clark county and Vanderburgh County (urban zone). The thought of inexperienced hunters using high powered rounds in/around urban zone is a very frightening thought. The thought of these stray rounds going into neighborhoods with lots of homes and children scares me to think what could happen. Take for example, a hunter doesn't truly understand the distance that some of these proposed rounds will travel and shoots at a deer and misses and that round travels into one of these neighbors and strikes and kills a child, who will be responsible? That round may have traveled so far no one even knows where the shot originated from. I have also witnessed, first hand on our farm, "road hunters" guys that will take a shot from their vehicle at a deer standing out in a field not knowing who or what might be in the woods behind that deer. Take for example a guy that pulls off the side of the road and shoots at a deer 200 yards out in a field and misses but 400 yards from the road there is a hunter sitting in a tree/on the ground and that bullet travels beyond that deer and strikes that other hunter. I am 100% against legalizing these new proposed rounds. I understand that these new modern muzzleloaders can travel a distance further than a shotgun, but that muzzleloader can only shot one round in a short period of time, not automatically discharge several round in a short period of time. In my opinion if you can't shoot a deer within 125 yards (both very capable with a muzzleloader and a shot gun) then you do not need to be attempting to harvest that animal. The other problem I see hunters will purchase a firearm that will accurately shoot 400 yards, but that does not mean that they have the skill set to safely harvest an animal at that distance. As I see it, and many other hunters that I have spoken with about this issue, there are many many more negative issues behind these new proposed laws than positives.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 10:47:42 AM

**Commenter Name** KEITH W ROBERTS

**City** WANATAH **County** LAPORTE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** kwesroberts@hotmail.com

**Comments** I regards to allowing rifles with a .243 bullet diameter and larger. I believe that there are too many areas where we hunt deer near residences to be using a 'high powered rifle'. I think you are at the very far end of the shooting range in stating that modern muzzle loaders are a 500 yard gun. A 250 gr hp bullet at 2200 or 2400 fps is not the same as a 30-06 or a 7mm magnum that fires a very aerodynamic bullet at a velocity of 2800 fps to 3300 fps. It is much harder to know your landing zone with the rifle. As you stated, we don't need the rifle to help control the herd, you just want to offer more opportunity for hunters. I believe you are doing a good job of managing the deer herd, and that there are plenty of opportunities without allowing 'high powered rifles'. Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion. I'm sure you will carefully weigh all aspects of the rule change before implementing it.

Keith Roberts

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 11:05:25 AM

**Commenter Name** mike trible

**City** warren **County** HUNTINGTON **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** mtrible2@gmail.com

**Comments** I support the rule change that allows rifle cal. for deer hunting to be .243 and larger, thank you

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 11:06:51 AM

**Commenter Name** Jeffrey S. Mickle

**City** Springfield **County** Out of State **State** Illinois

**E-Mail Address** roocog@aol.com



**Comments** I am against the use of high powered rifles to hunt deer. Where I hunt in Vermillion county it would be very dangerous. The current rule of using handgun cartridges in a rifle are proper, having shorter ranges.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 11:13:10 AM

**Commenter Name** Robert Revalee

**City** Connersville **County** FAYETTE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** robertrevalee@gmail.com

**Comments** Why would we want to open a high powered rifle season when we have managed hunts with the weapons that are available now. I fear of accidents and injuries if this takes place. We do not have the space for these weapons.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 11:54:12 AM

**Commenter Name** Joseph Stump

**City** Elkhart **County** ELKHART **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** buggyman9@hotmail.com

**Comments** From looking at the rule change and the ideas behind the change, I think this would be a good change for our state of Indiana. I think better shots will be taken because of the better inherent accuracy of the cartages opened up. This will make it cheaper for people to practice shooting with there deer gun because of the high cost of sabot slugs. I don't think there is anymore safety risk with these new cartages than the previous cartages. Thank you for listening to my comments.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 11:54:19 AM

**Commenter Name** Adam Douglas

**City** Markle **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** adam82douglas@gmail.com

**Comments** 312IAC9-3-3 section 3 (d)(4) Equipment for deer hunting

I ask this law not be passed and we keep the current equipment allowed.

The new proposed rule for allowing .243 caliber rifles and larger is not going to be a benefit to whitetail deer hunting in the state of Indiana. The argument for this topic is these larger rifles can be used for hunting other species, like coyotes, so why not open them up for deer ? The real question here is how many people take to the fields on a certain weekend ever year to hunt coyote ? Opening weekend of deer season can be extremely crowded in certain areas where there is a absolute safety hazards that will be breached if these larger rifles are allowed afield.

Also, modern muzzleloaders are capable of making an accurate 500 yard shot ? The statement is only an opinion and not a true fact. You can't name one manufacturer that claims their muzzleloader is anything but a 200 yard firearm, period. If someone is shooting an accurate 500 yard muzzleloader it's a custom build that probably less than 1% of hunters would be able to afford let alone control.

If you allow .243 cal or larger, that 1% of hunters using so called "high power accuracy rifles" today will turn into a mass amount of hunters having the ability to shot beyond there capable limits. I live in Huntington County where the ground is completely flat. If a high power rifle is fired in this area and the target is missed it will travel further than the shooters current field of view landing where ? More than likely into the next section or mile and hope if doesn't hit something or someone ? Rifles are allowed in states as Kentucky and Pennsylvania but the landscape in those two states isn't like what we deal with in NE Indiana. There are no hills to stop a high powered bullet. The UP of Michigan was also given as an example of states that allow high powered rifles. Why are they allowed to use them in the UP but not the main state ? My guess is terrian and high population which would be very similar to northern Indiana.

This law will only increase the amount or accidents and injuries without helping control the deer population, which I feel the current rules do a fine job of.

Thanks,

Adam Douglas

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 12:14:20 PM

**Commenter Name** Ryan Cox

**City** Lowell **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** SteelTree Ranch LLC.

**E-Mail Address** steelworkercox@gmail.com

**Comments** Upon reviewing the proposed changes to hunting/fishing regulations, I felt it necessary to take some time and submit comment on these intended measures. I know that our state agencies work tirelessly to help provide and protect our wildlife habitat in Indiana. As an avid hunter of almost every species known to our state, and as a property manager, I feel that the changes are going in the wrong direction. The late special antlerless season is adding too much opportunity to harvest the deer that we rely on to fawn new deer to the herd. I'm also in fierce opposition to allowing any type of firearm to be used in harvesting and filling urban zone tags. In an era when the "suburban types" are typically in opposition to any type of hunting, the last thing hunters need is to further agitate them by making them hear gunfire in their backyards. I am also the administrator for a Facebook group named, Northwest Indiana Hunting & Outdoors, consisting of over three hundred members. Most are hunters and an overwhelming majority of us feel that Indiana's deer population is in trouble. This position is based on hunter observation in the field. One hunter, also a police officer, says that automobile/deer collisions are way down where he patrols. I urge you to rethink some of these changes. Let's fix the problem before it becomes one. Let's make sure that our children and their children can share in the enjoyment of harvesting whitetail deer and passing down

centuries of hunting tradition. Thank you to all that serve and have served.

**Comment Received 12/11/2014 12:31:30 PM**

**Commenter Name** Albert E. Canady Jr.

**City** Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** N/A

**E-Mail Address** skipper@unlimitednet.us

**Comments** I am in favor of the deer law changes concerning the use of Center fire rifles and handguns. I am in favor of the law changes concerning Coyotes.

I am in favor of the change to 14" size limit on Largemouth Bass from 15" in

Lake Dogwood in Glendale FWA. near Washington, IN. Thank you,

Albert E. Canady Jr. 12-11-14

**Comment Received 12/11/2014 12:49:58 PM**

**Commenter Name** Grant Norton

**City** Butler **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** NRA

**E-Mail Address** rangernort@metalink.net

**Comments** in regards to this new rule ( high powered rifle use on deer). I strongly oppose this proposal! My family is an avid deer hunting family! The reason is safety first! Already declined deer population,

And too many guns out there already, And NO REASON for more! Please take this into consideration! Thank you, Grant Norton

**Comment Received 12/11/2014 12:50:27 PM**

**Commenter Name** Nathan Monroe

**City** Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** monroenm@gmail.com

**Comments** I am against the expansion of new rifle rounds. Living in the hilly country of Monroe county I have personally witnessed hunters shooting at deer up hill without regard to the land that lies beyond the deer. If that hunter was to shoot a deer in such a situation with a .300 WinMag, or similar HPR that bullet will have the opportunity to exit the deer and continue flying for an unknown extra distance. If the hunter was to miss in that situation, where would that bullet impact the ground? I don't know either, but I don't want to find out. I realize that current allowed rounds may have the same impact, but the distances traveled are not as far. I have seen first hand what bullets do to people, animals, and structures from my time spent in Iraq, and I don't want my family, my livestock, or my house to suffer those damages from unknowing hunters.

~Nathan Monroe

**Comment Received 12/11/2014 12:59:33 PM**

**Commenter Name** TJ Leach

**City** kokomo **County** HOWARD **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** deerslayer@outdrs.net

**Comments** I don't have any problems with the proposal for increasing the calibers for rifles, my issue is the use of semi auto rifles that have a large magazine capacity. I believe that there should be a 3-5 shells limit only for rifles. Or bolt action or lever action only. When you hunt for birds (duck, dove, quail etc) you are only allowed 3 shell max.

My concern is that with having a magazine that holds several bullets is very dangerous for the safety of other hunters and non hunters because they have the opportunity to just keep shooting at that deer or multiple deer and bullets flying everywhere and also for the wounded deer that gets shot in a non kill area and run off and never found that is just unethical.

**Comment Received 12/11/2014 1:35:25 PM**

**Commenter Name** John Grimes

**City** Urbana **County** WABASH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Grimesj7@yahoo.com

**Comments** Please don't eliminate the max case length. I would like to go into further detail and offer suggestions but this web page has been crashing on me every time I went submit. Geographically, Indiana is so different and now becoming more populated. Safety, ethics and transparent knowledge of the herd numbers are a must. I feel our firearms season is much too liberal. Allowing any caliber from .243 and up is only opening doors for more irresponsible hunters that can buy a 500yd gun for cheap. Plus allowing no max case length will hurt local business. Anyone can go to walmart and buy a .270 rem 700. But there are only a few places in Indiana to buy a custom rifle that is currently legal for deer. Please reconsider!! Just because other states do doesn't mean we have to!!

**Comment Received 12/11/2014 1:40:38 PM**

**Commenter Name** Rob Sobczak

**City** fort wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rsobczak58@comcast.net

**Comments** Please consider the approval of lever action rifles (such as winchester)for deer hunting in 30/30 caliber and .32 winchester special. Both rounds have ample power at appropriate ranges (under 200 yards conservatively) and are not used for 300-400 yard shots like many high powered rifles. They are the classic american deer rifles used in many other states and I would like to be able to use my .32 in Indiana.

**Comment Received 12/11/2014 2:15:18 PM**

**Commenter Name** Andrew Drummond  
**City** Yorktown **County** DELAWARE **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** rdummond27@gmail.com  
**Comments** Pass this amendment  
**Comment Received 12/11/2014 2:16:51 PM**

**Commenter Name** Nathan Murphy  
**City** West Lafayette **County** TIPPECANOE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** thundernm1981@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I do not think this is a good thing for a deer herd that is low right now. There has been a drop in population after 2013 due to the illness that they suffered. A high powered rifle reason is a terrible idea do to safety and property lines will be violated even more than they are now. Basically I could under the new proposed rules I could shoot any deer I could see. My .308 can easily take targets out to a 1000 yds. The weapons that are allowed currently are more than adequate to hunt deer in this state. From my experience the population is not out of control and I on average will take 3 to 6 deer a year for my freezer. Instead of letting us use a weapon that allows me to deer at a greater distance we need to working on a way to being able to hunt more property and giving land owners an incentive to do so.  
**Comment Received 12/11/2014 3:03:05 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jerry Hall  
**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana  
**Organization (optional)** N/A  
**E-Mail Address** pm-jlh@msn.com  
**Comments** The use of High-Powered Rifles in northern Indiana is not a smart rule!! This willcreate major problems to people and homes. Someone had better think twice about this rule. Maybe the property owners won't allow hunting with "Big Guns"  
**Comment Received 12/11/2014 3:06:03 PM**

**Commenter Name** Aaron Reed  
**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** reeda@lcsc.k12.in.us  
**Comments** I think it is ridiculous to set a limit on bluegill. Lakes like Monroe are already way over populated as it is. I beleive this will hurt other lakes as well. I usually go on a couple fishing trips every spring for bluegill. I am nnot going to pay the high price of camping in a park only to go out and fish for an hour for 25 bluegill. The parks will suffer and the lakes will become over populated which will hurt the other fish. I have seen this many times in ponds. I hope you really think about throwing this rule out.  
**Comment Received 12/11/2014 3:33:03 PM**

**Commenter Name** Dale Sides  
**City** Madison **County** JEFFERSON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** jamessides@seidata.com  
**Comments** Under No Circumstances should High Power Rifles other than what is all ready allowed be added to the list of weapons for Deer Hunting Every thing in place now is sufficient the herd is declining and things are working we don't need these Long Range weapons in Our woods and especially our Fields DONT ADD HPR Thanks  
**Comment Received 12/11/2014 3:43:32 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jaimal Fortner  
**City** Newport **County** VERMILLION **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** fortner74@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I sincerely believe that restrictions being lifted on high powered rifles is a positive step forward in the management of our deer herd. It is assuredly the most humane and efficient means possible for hunting deer. As such is known that it is already allowed to use such rounds in pistols and there has been no discernable saftey issues.  
**Comment Received 12/11/2014 3:54:27 PM**

**Commenter Name** jack corpuz  
**City** indianapolis **County** MARION **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** jc9195757@yahoo.com  
**Comments** Without some restrictions I also am opposed to the new rule. I can't support Bubba walking through the woods with an AK-47 and a 30 or 50 or 100 round magazine. I can't support "bump-fire" stocks on AR's or AK's. I can't support AR or AK "pistols" with special grips that are basically short barreled rifles and used as such. The cartridges I have no problem with other than I made a promise 5 years ago to draw the line at PCR's and not beyond that. So unless someone can amend the rule to eliminate some of my concerns I will not be supporting this proposal.  
 Making the semi-autos limited magazine capacity would help a lot. Redefining "pistols" for hunting would help. Banning bump fire stocks and other accessories for hunting should be a no brainer. This is not a 2nd amendment issue. It is a hunting issue.  
**Comment Received 12/11/2014 5:55:44 PM**

**Commenter Name** Joey murphy

**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** deer41mag@gmail.com

**Comments** I think the new rule change governing deer hunting should pass and legalize larger centerfire rifles. It's insanely hard to find ethical ammo for most PCR 's, including my .41 magnum rifle. As for possible accidents caused by increased range in high power rifles, a .22 rimfire can make it 1 mile. Any caliber will go at least a mile... without gravity and spin drift affecting the bullet or slug. It doesn't matter what gun you use, if you don't follow proper gun safety such as knowing your weapon ' s abilities and what lies beyond your target, if you take an unsafe shot and you miss the animal, it doesn't matter what caliber you use; a .410 s

slug is just as dangerous as any caliber rifle. You should not limit responsible hunters just because of that one guy that shouldn't be hunting. Calibers such as the 30-30 and the 45-70 drop fast once the round makes it to the 200 yard mark. In fact, the average 45-70 deer load will drop in 12"+ increments past 200 yards. Basically, if a hunter takes a safe and ethical shot at a buck with a 45-70 but misses, the slug will be in the dirt before it makes it very far. Most deer are killed from a tree stand. That way the bullet is closer to the ground when it makes it to the animal compared to hunting from the ground and shooting parallel...ish to the ground. I believe the new rule change should be legalized. Any safe and ethical hunter should have a logical limit on what rifle he should use. I know I can.

The most common calibers I think would be used would be: .243, .270, .308, 30-30, 45-70 (my personal choice), 7.62x54r, and 30-06. As long as the hunter can do his / her part, centerfire rifles should not be a problem.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 7:07:17 PM

**Commenter Name** Tom Ketchem

**City** Rensselaer **County** JASPER **State** INdiana

**E-Mail Address** ketchems@midwaynet.net

**Comments** I like the new rifle suggestion and I like the 16" limit on walleye, but I think that Bass Lake by Knox needs to be 16 inch also. I have seen many many limits taken out of Bass with 14 inch walleye that are to small. We have caught many bigger walleye from there and they do survive.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 7:44:31 PM

**Commenter Name** Larry Mangas

**City** Union City **County** RANDOLPH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** manhel@centurylink.net

**Comments** I am a deer hunter with bow, M.L.R. , rifle. I don't think we should use a cartridge bigger than 2.100 for safety 300 mag. are to big for this area of houses. The 30-30s or 45-70 don't carry as far they are safer.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 8:03:20 PM

**Commenter Name** Darin Blackburn

**City** Bedford **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** darin1762@yahoo.com

**Comments** I support the use of high powered rifles for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:18:05 PM

**Commenter Name** Chad Hardin

**City** Otwell **County** DUBOIS **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** chadhardin0@gmail.com

**Comments** I believe introducing high powered rifles for deer hunting is both dangerous and unnecessary. By doing this you are endangering other hunters and the general public. There are many weekend warriors whom do not have the experience or sense to use such a powerful weapon in the vicinity of the general public. I believe this is going to result in people being hurt or killed, and probably alot of property damage. Just because KY uses rifles doesnt mean IN should. Its time for the DNR to wake up and use their heads. Also, the taking of does needs to be curtailed somewhat, I dont care what your surveys show there arent many deer around in Pike and Dubois counties anymore.

If you want to take some advice from other states adopt some of their limits for crappie so IN a glers ca catch nicer fish in the future

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:18:43 PM

**Commenter Name** Brandon parker

**City** New haven **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** parker31280@hotmail.com

**Comments** The gun season in Indiana is extremely long compared to Ohio and Illinois. Adding larger caliber that shoot farther and harder is going to not only hurt the deer population but be dangerous for me. I am a witness of 3 guys shooting 5 deer in less than a minute this year. If I bow hunt in Indiana and have a hard time seeing deer I won't be purchasing license. This rule change very well make me start hunting Ohio only.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:19:48 PM

**Commenter Name** Farrel Weisheit

**City** Jasper **County** DUBOIS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** fweisheit@yahoo.com

**Comments** I want to say I am totally against Indiana going too a high powered rifle for deer season. Indiana is not like other states that currently use a high powered rifle this would be a very bad decision. I have hunted deer for 40 years now and what we have now works fine. I can tell you with the honest too god truth that the deer population is very low where we hunt in Davis county it is so bad that my grandson doesn't even want to go we don't see deer and that's what it's all about. You say you that you want youth to hunt but if you keep knocking the heard down you have to worry some day there won't be many younger hunters. You finally got smart and stopped the rabbit hunting in October the season is way to long now running into February is crazy. I don't know who you have that makes up some of these rules but you need better input from the true hunters THAT CARES. Thank you. Farrel

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:48:00 PM

**Commenter Name** Dennis Runshe

**City** shelbyville **County** SHELBY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dennisrunshe@att.net

**Comments** I already got nuts shooting high power rifles around my woods in Ripley county. We don't need high power rifle to hunt deer in Indiana. I have had DNR at my place for several years about rifles being shoot out of trucks from roads in to fields at deer trying to get to my woods which is surrounded by farm fields with road access around the fields. Every year I have one person that owns a house with no woods or fields to his property. But he stands outside his house using 44mag rifle and shoots across two big fields at deer and he is shooting in to my woods were my brothers and son and I hunt. We hear him shoot all the time and bullets wiss in to my woods were we are in ladder stands. I have talked to this person and was told by him bullets will not go that fare. We do not need a rifle in Indiana

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 9:48:42 PM

**Commenter Name** Neiel Kuhn

**City** KENDALLVILLE **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** neiel@elitepoolsinc.com

**Comments** allow the use of higher caliber more accurate rifles for hunting deer. It would reduce the amount of wasted deer that are wounded and wonder off and never found. Every year I hear about deer that are shot and never found.

Reduce the amount of hunting dates and deer bag limits to allow for more trophy deer, this would attract more hunters to Indiana and increase revenue. Similar to Wisconsin, Iowa, and Ill

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 10:24:57 PM

**Commenter Name** Josh Rozzi

**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jsrozzi7965@gmail.com

**Comments** I'm 100% against the new rifle cartridges being approved for deer hunting next year. I currently here stories of "hunters" shooting their muzzle loaders 150-200 yards only to injure deer. As a devoted archer, I'm not against a short firearm season, but to allow high powered rifles is ridiculous. These rifles will only promote poaching as they can shoot well over 300 yards onto adjoining properties. I haven't even mentioned the safety concerns at hand shooting one of these rifles in a densely populated area such as Indiana....We're not in the Rockies shooting from mountain top to mountain top.

Calipers up to and including .338 Lapua and .50 BMG will be utilized by some simply to kill deer at extreme ranges with no regard to where that bullet will land if they miss. In closing, I'm absolutely disgusted with this new proposal!!! Take a closer look at and try to emulate Illinois' firearms restrictions.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 10:32:40 PM

**Commenter Name** Thomas Kuhlenschmidt

**City** Crown Point **County** LAKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tkuhlenschmidt@munster.org

**Comments** Indiana is behind the times in regards to its ban on high powered rifles while hunting deer. The use of high powered rifles would increase the accuracy of shots and range of kills, allowing for more harvesting and decreasing the number of injured animals because of poor aim.

**Comment Received** 12/11/2014 11:48:58 PM

**Commenter Name** James Bullock

**City** Williams **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jimb@daveomara.com

**Comments** I am commenting on 312 IAC 9-3-3. I have some concerns for using rifles that shoot .243 cartridges and larger. The use of high powered rifles in this state would only be safe in the southern half of the state and only from treestands. I have hunted in this state for 32 years and own property in both Jefferson and Lawrence counties. I think Indiana is not suitable for the use of these weapons because of the densely populated areas. I also believe that the deer herd is down across the state and the use of rifles will result in a raise in the harvest which we do not need!!!! The increase in hunters taking unethical or longer shots at deer will result in more deer crippled that will not be recovered. I have hunted in other rifle states such as Colorado and Kentucky and have witnessed this first hand. Indiana has done enough to increase the hunting opportunities and harvest here. I think we should leave well enough alone. My #1 concern in this whole change is safety for the general public as well as fellow hunters. I personally would be fine hunting with a rifle on a safety side but what im worried about is the next guy and the next. I have 4 children that all hunt and hunting during gun season now worries me as a father. Put rifles in peoples hands and that raises my concerns a whole other level. Think about it. Thanks for your time!

**Comment Received** 12/12/2014 6:10:59 AM

**Commenter Name** Monte Egolf

**City** Albion **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** megolf@nobleremc.com

**Comments** I wish to comment on the proposed use of high powered rifles for deer hunting. The biggest consideration needs to given to safety of the public and individuals personal property and NOT to a select few wishes of hunters. Our area, as well as much of Indiana is simply to heavily populated to allow the use of high powered rifles. Including land I own in Noble County I also deer hunt on five other properties in Noble County. NOT ONE of these properties are remote enough to use a high powered rifle to hunt deer!! Too many homes, farms, livestock and people (including children playing in their yards) to even think about using a high powered rifle. My hunting properties are not unlike a lot of hunters'. Hunters already have enough options to use various types of guns to deer hunt. Bullets from some of these various guns will carry a long ways, much further than the traditional shotgun slug. THE DANGER RISK FOR THIS PROPOSAL IS SIMPLY WAY TO HIGH!!! Deer hunting is Indiana has gotten along just fine for many, many years without the use of high powers and there is ABSOLUTELY no reason to change it now.

**Comment Received** 12/12/2014 8:39:02 AM

**Commenter Name** Brian Elgin

**City** Evansville **County** VANDERBURGH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** brian.d.elgin@gmail.com

**Comments** I support the proposed rule change to lower the caliber to .243 and remove the maximum case length.

I would like to see a grouse hunting season for private land owners to encourage habitat restoration and conservation.

I think the urban deer reduction areas should remain bow hunting only.

**Comment Received** 12/12/2014 9:32:55 AM

**Commenter Name** John Deveau

**City** Laotto **County** NOBLE **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** Ducks Unlimited

**E-Mail Address** jdcodog1@hotmail.com

**Comments** I do not want rifle hunting in Indiana. I live in the country close to woods where riles would endager my family and others. When shooting a rifle the bullet could travel miles and kill someone that you didn't even know was killed by your rifle. Hunters in the filed would be killed from a long distance.  
Just a bad Idea.

could the bullet travel miles

**Comment Received** 12/12/2014 10:24:34 AM

**Commenter Name** James Naas

**City** Owensville **County** GIBSON **State** IN - Indiana

**E-Mail Address** bob72281@gmail.com

**Comments** Don't want the use of high powered rifles next year. I believe the population is down and this will only make it worse. I enjoy hunting deer but don't see the numbers that I used to. If I continue not seeing deer then hunting will be less enjoyable. May just stop going if gets too bad. Thank you for your time.

**Comment Received** 12/12/2014 10:46:31 AM

**Commenter Name** Wynn Hensel

**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** whensel1@frontier.com

**Comments** Regarding allowing hi-powered rifles to hunt deer in Indiana. I have been a deer hunter in Indiana for close to 50 years using bow, sidelock muzzle loader, shotgun, and in-line muzzleloader. I have never had a problem in harvesting a deer. There is not a need for hi-powered rifles to improve harvest potential, it is a safety issue however. With the flat topography of most of Indiana, the long carry of a hi-powered rifle is a "real" safety issue. No near by state allows this in similar population and topographical areas to that of most of our state. I have talked with approx 50 good deer hunters, not one has been in favor of this change. Harvesting a deer is not an issue with shotgun or muzzleloader, long range weapons are not needed, and the risk is by far to high to allow them.

**Comment Received** 12/12/2014 11:04:25 AM

**Commenter Name** Henry Mang

**City** Camby **County** HENDRICKS **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** hmang@iu.edu

**Comments** I would like to see a rule for the use of high powered rifles to be limited to using a bolt action rifle or limiting the number of bullets a gun will hold. We don't need people just shooting 6-10 rounds at a deer in hopes of hitting hit.

I would also be in favor of baiting deer in the reduction zones to bring more deer in closer for better shots and using bow and arrow only.

**Comment Received 12/12/2014 11:24:31 AM**

**Commenter Name** Cole Gutshall

**City** Huntington **County** HUNTINGTON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** cubbie83@hotmail.com

**Comments** Strongly against the use of rifles during the Deer Firearms season. Indiana has way to many residential sites close to hunting areas that would be an extreme safety risk (children playing, pets, etc.) Another issue with using rifles is that you are asking for more wounded deer as hunters will be taking further shots that are risky and unethical. As a hunter I will feel very threatened knowing that even an ethical shot could result in wounding or killing another hunter in the area who may be a few hundred yards away. My last issue is that in the last couple years the deer herd is not being seen out in the field. To many doe tags have resulted in fewer deer sightings. I realize EHD has been a big factor to this as well but adding high powered rifles to the mix will further continue to destroy a deer herd that is in no doubt on the rapid decline.

**Comment Received 12/12/2014 1:45:11 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jared Mobley

**City** Peru **County** MIAMI **State** Indiana

**Organization (optional)** US Army Corps of Engineers - Mississinewa Lake

**E-Mail Address** jared.k.mobley@usace.army.mil

**Comments** The Corps of Engineers manages around 700 acres near Mississinewa Reservoir. This land is completely separate from the land that we lease to the IDNR. On average week days during firearm season there are 6-8 hunters using the property each day. But on the weekend there are 20+ hunters using the property. I only observe this property but I would guess hunter density is the same on public land across the state. From a safety stand point, I don't know understand how the state can legalized the use of high powered rifles on these properties.

I exclusively hunt private land and I am considering not allowing my family to hunt during firearm season if the state allows use of high power rifles. I am not worried about rifles affecting our deer herd. The hunters that consistently harvest deer now will still be successful whether rifles are legal or not, and the hunters who have trouble harvesting deer will still have trouble. But I already have issues with guys shooting 50-100 yards in to fields I exclusively hunt. With rifles what is going to stop them from shooting further? I used to carry a decoy both during archery and firearm season. I can't do that anymore because I have had multiple occasions where the neighbors tried to stalk up and get a shot at my decoy... I have always said I would love to shoot a deer with my .308 but I don't ever want the guy next door using one. I am sure I could find peer reviewed papers to support both sides of the argument but I am just going to say my opinion. I would feel much safer hunting with my wife, 2 daughters, and father if high powered rifles remain illegal.

Jared K. Mobley  
Maintenance Mechanic  
Mississinewa Lake  
Louisville District  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
5613 E Mississinewa Dam Rd  
Peru, IN 46970  
765-473-5946  
Fax-765-473-8643

**Comment Received 12/12/2014 3:45:19 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jon hall

**City** Fort Wayne **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Jd517us@yahoo.com

**Comments** I believe there is no need for any High powered rifle. Huge difference between a 300yd single shot muzzle loader and a 1000yd semi automatic 300 win mag. Manage heard better with 1 buck and 2 does.. Who ever is responsible for these newer reg just wants the heard destroyed.. There or fewer deer and soon it's going to be a rarity just to see one. My family eats 3-4 a year and thanks to these careless depredations permit handouts and so on. The damage has been done. Leave things alone! If anything cut down the number of deer being able to be taken..

**Comment Received 12/12/2014 4:11:07 PM**

**Commenter Name** Lonnie Waters

**City** Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** Fish609@hotmail.com

**Comments** I agree with these changes, specifically allowing rifle calibers to be used in rifles. I believe that rifle rounds will significantly reduce the suffering of game animals. The decrease in unneeded suffering will be reduced by allowing hunters to use equipment that can put significantly more energy into their target. The increase in energy also means that hunters will be able to place shots at distance on target much easier also reducing suffering from bad shot placement from inferior equipment.

Thank you.

**Comment Received 12/12/2014 5:05:25 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jordan Bell

**City** Camby **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** sephirros@gmail.com

**Comments** I am glad to see more rifles may end up being legal for deer hunting. I can't wait to get out with a .30-30 or a .45-70. However, I think there should still be some limitation on case length.

We don't want some yahoo out there trying to hunt a deer with a .50 bmg just because "they can". Perhaps set the max length to something like 70mm. This would keep the larger anti-material rounds from being an issue but still allow for long range hunting cartridges.

Thanks.

**Comment Received 12/13/2014 1:35:23 AM**

**Commenter Name** Norm Hartman

**City** Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** hart4purdue@yahoo.com

**Comments** I really like the proposed rule to place a panfish limit at 25. I am an avid fisherman but I only fish in the spring - fall period. I have NEVER caught more than 25 in an outing. I usually have to work pretty hard just to catch a dozen keepers. I know people who are avid ice fishermen. They brag about catching 200 - 300 fish in a day. Game Hogs!

Ice fisherman have a distinct advantage because fish are very sluggish in the cold water and do not roam much. They also tend to be concentrated in certain areas. With today's technology, they are easily located and then it is just a matter of waiting until they decide to feed. When that happens, these ice fishermen just pull them in one after another. A dozen ice fishermen could easily harvest 1,000 - 2,000 panfish in a IN A SINGLE DAY! These fish are now gone for the spring spawn. Many of these guys are retired and ice fish almost every day the ice is safe. We have guys in N.E. Indiana who put on benefit fish fries and feed 500 people with what they have caught.

Now, let's talk money. I can buy all the gear I need to ice fish for under \$300. But as a warm-weather fisherman, I need a boat and trailer, some kind of motor, gasoline, a much larger selection of rods and lures for the different species or type of fishing (fly, flipping, trolling, etc.), and a host of other accessories. I need someone who can work on my boat and motor. As a warm-weather fisherman, my impact to the Indiana economy is easily 50 times that of an ice fisherman.

If I can't take a kid fishing and be able to catch a nice mess of fish, that kid will not have fun and is less likely to become a future fisherman.

Today, if you have the time, the equipment and good ice, you WILL slaughter the panfish. It is more science than luck today and that is why we need a bag limit on panfish. It is just common sense and fairness.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

**Comment Received 12/13/2014 7:12:11 AM**

**Commenter Name** Norm Hartman

**City** Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** hart4purdue@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am totally against permitting high powered rifles to hunt deer. I am a hunter and know of NO ONE clambering for this rule change. Who is behind this and why? Follow the money.

Indiana is too densely populated for rifles. Most deer hunting is done from tree stands and it easy to get deer within shotgun slug (or pistol range). Most tree stands are at the edges of woods or swampland and these bullets could travel miles before they hit an innocent bystander. Buck fever could cause someone to take an unsafe shot with disastrous results. THAT IS WHY NO OTHER STATE LIKE INDIANA ALLOWS RIFLES! IT IS COMMON SENSE AND HOOSIERS HAVE ALWAYS HAD COMMON SENSE (UNTIL NOW). FIRE THE PEOPLE THAT CAME UP WITH THIS IDEA!

**Comment Received 12/13/2014 7:24:55 AM**

**Commenter Name** scott wireman

**City** rensselaer **County** JASPER **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** dhwireman@gmail.com

**Comments** I feel it is not a good ideal to allow the use of high powered riffles in the state of Indiana. The reasons are as fallows. the central to the northern portion is way to flat and open agricultural and besides aren't we killing enough deer with the weapons available to us hunters . I and many other hunter in my are feel as a state we are killing to many animals as it is ,with are excessive amount of legal hunting days. After the amount of deer sightings or lack of in the 2014 season I should say , we should reevaluate the program we are using now

**Comment Received 12/13/2014 8:21:06 AM**

**Commenter Name** James Shearer



**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** j17shearer@aol.com

**Comments** I strongly oppose the use of high-powered rifles for deer hunting. I am a bicyclist and am even now leery of riding on county road during hunting season. If high powered rifles were being used, it is only a matter of time before a biker, jogger or even a driver is accidentally injured or killed. Please to do not adopt this change. Are not sufficient deer already harvested without this?

**Comment Received** 12/13/2014 9:04:01 AM

**Commenter Name** James Reese

**City** Bargersville **County** JOHNSON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jmreese1@live.com

**Comments** Hello,

I am all for the allowance of rifles during firearms season although I would like to see firearms season shortened. I understand the population is controlled primarily through doe harvests and the bonus antlerless permit. I was glad to see Indiana reduce the county quotas accordingly after the last few tough seasons. In my opinion firearms season should only be a week or week and a half, or if opening day was a Monday. I'm not concerned with the safety aspect for the rifles as I hunt private property but I can see where a public land hunter may be a bit worried.

**Comment Received** 12/13/2014 10:14:36 AM

**Commenter Name** Bruce Brindle

**City** Peru **County** MIAMI **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** bruceabrindle@yahoo.com

**Comments** I've been told that the state is considering allowing the use of high powered rifles (center fire) for harvesting deer. I do not believe this to be a good idea in the best interest of safety. Rifles that have the capability of killing a deer over a half mile away certainly have the capability of doing the same to another hunter. Odds are that a hunter wouldn't even know that another hunter is in the line of fire, and range, when he's shooting at something 200+ yards away, simply because he wouldn't see him. Adding in the fact that the density of homes in the rural has increased over the years, a greater risk of striking a home is heightened. In-line muzzle loaders, when loaded to their max loads, have the capability of hitting a target that far away. We don't need to legalize a firearm that can do the same thing in the next county. Thank you.

**Comment Received** 12/13/2014 10:18:33 AM

**Commenter Name** Michael Rogers

**City** Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** sweetpea8802000@yahoo.com

**Comments** This is on the rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 which is changes for deer hunting equipment.

I don't see this being a good idea on using high powered rifles. If you want to compare Indiana to other states then look at a state like Illinois and Iowa and Ohio. These states are plains states like ours. We don't have mountains like Kentucky, Pennsylvania, or Upper Michigan.

A muzzleloader is not accurate up to 500 yards and do not travel nearly as far as a high power rifle will.... THINK ABOUT THE SAFETY IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

I hope you reconsider this rule I have talked with several hunters on this and all of them think whoever came up with this proposal isn't thinking at all. I'm sure if you speak to non-hunters they will absolutely be against this.

**Comment Received** 12/13/2014 11:17:07 AM

**Commenter Name** Doug Coolman

**City** Angola **County** STEUBEN **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** Dbbbcool@gmail.com

**Comments** If high powered rifles are legalized, I will not venture outside any more than I have to let alone deer hunt. There are several folks I know who unload their slug guns at a deer running 150-200 yards in the distance. These people will be doing the same- only at even greater distances- with a .308 they purchase from wall mart. I know for a fact there will be property damage as a minimum, as I have patched a hole in my pole building from a 12-gauge slug.

On paper, high powered rifles are a common sense idea; however, in this case, my feeling is IDNR is overlooking something in high supply these days: a lack of respect for personal property- especially among trespassers and poachers, lack of personal responsibility, and an overall lack of ethics in general. A majority of hunters could certainly wield a high powered rifle and not place anyone in danger. However, I know several locally that will endanger people. If the hunting public consist of 10-15 percent of these type folks, there will be property damage, injuries, and even deaths.

Please do not make this change. The herd is being managed quite well right now. If it isn't broke, I beg of you not to fix it.

Sincerely

Doug Coolman

**Comment Received** 12/13/2014 11:19:29 AM

<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Beverly Coolman  <b>City</b> Angola <b>County</b> STEUBEN <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Beverly.coolman@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> While there are many responsible gun owners who could handle high powered rifles in a mature and safe way, there are too many irresponsible gun owners who are not up to that challenge. I have a young son and dogs that will not be safe in our own yard if this rule change is allowed.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/13/2014 11:24:14 AM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> ronald marhenke  <b>City</b> watrloo <b>County</b> DEKALB <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> rkmvetteman@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I vote no on this rule change leave it as is.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/13/2014 1:13:48 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> SCOTT ZAGRODNIK  <b>City</b> OAK FOREST <b>County</b> Out of State <b>State</b> ILLINOIS  <b>E-Mail Address</b> SZR2@WIDOPENWEST.COM  <b>Comments</b> I believe that high-power rifle will be just as safe as shotgun or muzzleloader deer hunting. I also believe that will the better made barnes tsx bullets that deer can be effectively taken with a 223 remington rifle or ar15. This will allow young hunters to harvest deer with out the chance of flinching and shying away from outdoor hunting. Shot placement is more critical than larger callibers.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/13/2014 4:14:10 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> SHARON ZAGRODNIK  <b>City</b> OAK FOREST <b>County</b> Out of State <b>State</b> ILLINOIS  <b>E-Mail Address</b> SPUNKY1@WOWWAY.COM  <b>Comments</b> I believe that high-power rifle will be just as safe as shotgun or muzzleloader deer hunting. I also believe that will the better made barnes tsx bullets that deer can be effectively taken with a 223 remington rifle or ar15. This will allow young hunters and women to harvest deer with out the chance of flinching and shying away from outdoor hunting. Shot placement is more critical than larger calibers.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/13/2014 4:15:58 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Sedge Hicks  <b>City</b> Butler <b>County</b> DEKALB <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> phicks@mondokat.com  <b>Comments</b> I say vote no to legalizing 243 and larger rifles. They are unsafe. There are too many ways to kill deer now.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/13/2014 6:06:25 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brent Swan  <b>City</b> Wabash <b>County</b> WABASH <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> brentswan54@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I am in favor of the rule change. As someone that works first hand with one of the largest manufacturers of the .358 rifle, there is no rational explanation to justify continuing the ban on HPRs when there are already thousands of rifles in the woods capable of shooting over 600 yards. The only explanation those against the rule can offer is simply personal preference or a mentality of "that's the way it has always been." I'm not a biologist to argue the effect on the numbers of deer killed, but how would a person switching from hunting with a traditional firearm to a rifle amount to more deer being killed? Perhaps a slightly higher success rate? Opening the season to rifles isn't going to attract new hunters - it should mean that more hunters should have a higher success rate, and even that point is debatable.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/13/2014 8:24:13 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Alvin Hook  <b>City</b> Butler <b>County</b> DEKALB <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> 59ahook@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> As a farmer and hunter I am against allowing high powered rifles to be used to hunt deer. Indiana is too flat and populated to have someone firing off multiple shots at a running deer that could go over a mile before coming down.in the excitement of buck fever the first shot may be carefully taken but after that who knows. Not like a slug which drops rapidly. About the first time an innocent person gets killed a mile away lawmakers would be rethinking this rule change.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/13/2014 9:33:01 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Jesse Flores  <b>City</b> Valparaiso <b>County</b> PORTER <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> Flores.jr9707@sbcglobal.net  <b>Comments</b> I believe the rule change allowing the use of "high power" rifles in Indiana is a welcomed proposal from most sportsman. Today most sportsman have completed a hunter education course and are more concerned with safety than ever before. Most public and private clubs and organizations support education and safety in all fields of hunting. But especially in the use of firearms. I feel it would also contribute to more recovered animals due to the more effectiveness of the firearm when compared to what is allowed currently. It can also help control deer population management by giving a sportsman additional choices in methods of taking deer. I've encountered more vehicle deer collisions this year than I can</p>

recall in past years.hopefully the state will allow this proposal to take place as other neighboring states currently do.

**Comment Received** 12/13/2014 11:51:23 PM

**Commenter Name** DAN NORMAN

**City** COLUMBIA CITY **County** WHITLEY **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** DANNORMAN21@HOTMAIL.COM

**Comments** I SUPPORT THE CHANGE TO LENGTHEN CASE LENGTH AND ALLOW THE 45-70 & 30-30 FOR USE IN FIREARMS SEASON

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 10:47:59 AM

**Commenter Name** John r bennett

**City** salem **County** WASHINGTON **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** rbennett@thewildwoodacres.com

**Comments** I feel very strongly as well as 80% of people Ive spoke with about it. That we do NOT need high powered rifles used in Indiana deer hunting. The current weapons on file are plenty and shots are usually 100 yards or less.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 1:11:50 PM

**Commenter Name** Trent Stinson

**City** Velpen **County** PIKE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** trent\_716@yahoo.com

**Comments** This rule seems to make a lot of sense. As an avid sportsman, I SUPPORT these changes. I have heard a lot of complaints about the proposed change in deer firearm equipment, however the concerns seem to be pure speculation with no information to support the concerns.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 2:27:32 PM

**Commenter Name** Joe Flansaas

**City** Laurel **County** FRANKLIN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jflansaas@yahoo.com

**Comments** While I support the change to allow use of rifles for deer hunting, I believe that a 223 or 5.56 caliber would be adequate for harvesting deer, and is probably a more commonly owned rifle. I also believe a size limit should be considered. The smaller rifles, 223, 243 etc. would carry far less than a 7mm magnum for example. At least until hunters over come the shotgun mentality of bullets only traveling a short distance.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 4:49:53 PM

**Commenter Name** Alvin Anderson

**City** Roanoke **County** ALLEN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** alvinroanoke@gmail.com

**Comments** I am in favor of the rule allowing longer cartridges in rifles for deer hunting. I do have reservations however about using higher powered rifles such as 30/06, .270, 7mm mag, 308, etc. I think this should be limited to shorter range cartridges such as .30-.30, 32 special, 35 Remington, etc. As an additional comment on something which is never proposed, I think seniors should get a break on license fees. adjoining states such as Ohio and Michigan give seniors a break on cost.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 5:29:07 PM

**Commenter Name** wayne quickery

**City** coronna **County** DEKALB **State** in

**E-Mail Address** cqgrandma@gmail.com

**Comments** i do not understand someone ignorant enough to think that no serious accidents will come form hi-powered rifles.Be prepared to pass more laws restricting distance from residences while hunting.OUR state is way to populated for deer hunting with hi-powered rifles!!! I have been hunting deer in Indiana for 55years and have never seen more irresponsible and inept decisions made by the DNR.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 6:13:49 PM

**Commenter Name** Zach Overway

**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** overwayz@live.com

**Comments** I am opposed to the new proposal to allow rifle cartridges .243 and larger. The equipment currently allowed to take deer is efficient. If safety is not an issue with these long range rifles why do the surrounding states with terrain similar to northern Indiana not allow long range rifles? Why do we need to continue to make deer killing easier? I understand the legalization of crossbows for everybody. Crossbows created more opportunity for youth and others that could not handle other archery equipment. Why does the state want to legalize long range rifles? Appears to me that hunters are being very effective at lowering the deer herd with current legal equipment. I am adamantly opposed to legalizing long range rifles to hunt deer. If Indiana legalizes .243's and above lets shorten the deer firearms season and move it out of the rut.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 7:19:47 PM

**Commenter Name** Brandy Overway

**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** IN

**Organization (optional)** 3113 Summit Avenue

**E-Mail Address** overwayb@lscs.k12.in.us

**Comments** I am adamantly opposed to allowing rifle cartridges .243 and above to take deer!!!!!!  
**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 7:25:57 PM

**Commenter Name** Aaron Jenkins  
**City** Lawrenceburg **County** DEARBORN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** jenkinsdka@gmail.com

**Comments** I feel that allowing high power rifles during the gun season will be unsafe. I worry about hunter and land owner safety and the fallout from unsafe practices on the overall view of hunting in general. its not in the proposal but I believe gun and muzzle-loader season should be shortened.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 7:42:15 PM

**Commenter Name** danny camden  
**City** mooreville **County** MORGAN **State** indiana  
**E-Mail Address** dannycmdn@yahoo.com

**Comments** No high powered rifles in Indiana. There really is no point in changing rules due to its not that hard to harvest a deer. I believe people will be hurt by inexperienced gun handlers

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 8:44:34 PM

**Commenter Name** Matt Anslinger  
**City** Terre Haute **County** VIGO **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** slinger1996@gmail.com

**Comments** I believe legalizing rifles for deer season is a bad idea, not only does it legalize poachers tool of choice, but let's hunters take trophy bucks at further distances. Thus taking more trophy animals out of the population. Most of Indiana is small wooded areas with lots of hunters in the woods in firearms season and I see rifles making the woods more unsafe. If we have to legalize more center fire cartridges, then in propose 1. Shortening the firearm and muzzleloader seasons to maximum of 9 days each, or even shorter like Illinois seasons. And 2. Enacting an "earn a buck" system where a hunter must tag a non antlered deer before harvesting an antlered animal.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 10:07:25 PM

**Commenter Name** Mark Smith  
**City** w Terre haute **County** VIGO **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** tackleberry63@yahoo.com

**Comments** I don't want high powered rifles. Our current rifles are sufficient to manage our current deer herd.

**Comment Received** 12/14/2014 10:39:42 PM

**Commenter Name** Matt Underwood  
**City** Henryville **County** CLARK **State** INDIANA  
**E-Mail Address** munderwood@nwtf.net

**Comments** I personally am in favor of opening the rifle cartridge definition to allow for .243 and larger. I believe this will reduce the barriers of entry for deer hunters by allowing access to a wider range of cartridges, and reduce the need for "wildcat" rounds. These "wildcats," like the .358 Hoosier, have ballistics comparable to the .308 Win, while the latter is much cheaper to acquire.

That said, I would like to see capacity limitations, e.g. no more than 10 round capacity, to prevent unsafe "pray and spray" situations. Hunters need to concentrate more on the quality of the shot, than the quantity they can sling at an animal. This lack of respect for game puts both the animal and fellow hunters at unnecessary risk of injury, and negative perception to non-hunting public.

Please feel free to contact me for clarification on my personal opinion; my organization has not taken an official stand on this administrative proposal.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 12:25:40 AM

**Commenter Name** Matt Underwood  
**City** Henryville **County** CLARK **State** INDIANA  
**E-Mail Address** munderwood@nwtf.net

**Comments** I personally am in favor of opening the rifle cartridge definition to allow for .243 and larger. I believe this will reduce the barriers of entry for deer hunters by allowing access to a wider range of cartridges, and reduce the need for "wildcat" rounds. These "wildcats," like the .358 Hoosier, have ballistics comparable to the .308 Win, while the latter is much cheaper to acquire.

That said, I would like to see capacity limitations, e.g. no more than 10 round capacity, to prevent unsafe "pray and spray" situations. Hunters need to concentrate more on the quality of the shot, than the quantity they can sling at an animal. This lack of respect for game puts both the animal and fellow hunters at unnecessary risk of injury, and negative perception to non-hunting public.

Please feel free to contact me for clarification on my personal opinion; my organization has not taken an official stand on this administrative proposal.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 12:26:17 AM

**Commenter Name** Brian Shively  
**City** Columbia **County** WHITLEY **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** bdshively@gmail.com  
**Comments** I feel current firearm seasons are too liberal for the size of our deer herd, and allowing high powered rifles such as 30-06 and .243 and so forth is both dangerous for our human population density, and will further deplete our deer herd.  
**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 9:02:17 AM

**Commenter Name** Dan Carnahan  
**City** Winslow **County** PIKE **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** adcarnahan@gmail.com  
**Comments** I am for allowing all rifles.  
 I am for the 9 inch minimum length limit on crappie at Hardy and Dogwood Lakes.  
**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 9:16:55 AM

**Commenter Name** Jacob Schroeder  
**City** Fortville **County** HAMILTON **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** Jake@flavortruck.com  
**Comments** "I am in complete support of the proposed allowance of the use of rifles for deer hunting."  
**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 12:31:39 PM

**Commenter Name** DENNIS SKIVER  
**City** REDKEY **County** JAY **State** INDIANA  
**E-Mail Address** dskiver@frontier.com  
**Comments** I would like to petition for rifles in .30-.30 and .30-06 calibers to be legal for deer hunting. Many other states allow these rifles. If it's a matter of their long range capability, they are mainly used in wooded areas with plenty of trees and brush for backstops. Most likely they are used from tree stands, with the trajectory being towards the ground. If it's a matter of kill power, that shouldn't be a factor as the .30-.30 has been a classic deer rifle for over 100 years. Thanks for listening, Dennis Skiver  
**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 12:43:56 PM

**Commenter Name** tim brindisi  
**City** portage **County** PORTER **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** southsubap@aol.com  
**Comments** i am in favor of high powred rifles for deer season  
 i dont belive the ruffed grouse season should be susprnded unless absolutely critical to the propagation of the species  
 i also think the anterless bonus season sahould be open on state land  
**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 1:49:59 PM

**Commenter Name** Tom cuneo  
**City** Columbus **County** BARTHOLOMEW **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** tom@tlcinternet.com  
**Comments** My comment is in opposition to the proposed rifle rule change. They simply are not needed. Do i think it will increase injuries, no. I just do not think it is needed in this state. 80% of hunters never even have a shot as long as these rifles are capable of.  
 My second comment is about the deer population, it is noticeably in decline. I believe the lowering of doe permits is needed for a couple of years. Or a re-evaluation on a per county basis is needed. In our county, they definitely seem to be in fewer visible numbers than in previous years.  
 Thanks and Sincerely,  
 Tom Cuneo  
**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 2:06:17 PM

**Commenter Name** Travis Goodwin  
**City** Noblesville **County** HAMILTON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** indy\_travis@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I am NOT in favor of expanding the rifle selection for use in Indiana. Allowing the use of current fire cartridges in pistols(30-06,.243,7mm, etc) is not safe or responsible. Allowing them in rifles is a worse idea, if that's possible. With hunters hunting in and around urban and suburban areas the use of firearms capable of extended range and projectile distance is ill advised. Please reconsider any change that allows center fire rifle cartridges to be legal equipment in Indiana. If it was a good idea to not allow them in the past, what is driving the use of them now? Are they safer than they were when hunter, deer, and population numbers were much lower and simple slug guns and muzzleloaders were the only "safe and legal" equipment? Please don't pass this rule.  
**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 2:16:30 PM

**Commenter Name** THOMAS BILLINGS  
**City** CHESTERTON **County** PORTER **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** WAREAGLE1821@HOTMAIL.COM

**Comments** I AM AGAINST ALLOWING HIGH POWER RIFLES FOR DEER HUNTING IN INDIANA.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 4:02:14 PM

**Commenter Name** Jeff Rhody

**City** Crown Point **County** LAKE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jrhody@lcscmail.com

**Comments** I am opposed to the blanket policy of a 25-fish limit on bluegill statewide. While I understand the need for this type of limit in certain lakes in order to make the fish a sustainable resource, I do not think that this is necessary on all lakes. I fish primarily Lake Tippecanoe in Kosciusko County, which is a deep and large surface are lake. Lake such as this are able to withstand the fishing pressure of many fishermen without the danger of depleting the resource. While smaller lakes in Indiana may need regulation, a 25-fish limit statewide is not necessary.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 4:32:14 PM

**Commenter Name** Jared Spokowsky

**City** Milan **County** RIPLEY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jspokowsky@gmail.com

**Comments** To whom it may concern.

I am in favor of allowing the use of rifles for hunting white tail deer. I grew up in upstate NY in a county of 72,000 residents and approximately 660 square miles. The county was comprised of small towns and rolling farmland. Similar to where I live now in Ripley county (Ripley county is a little flatter). When I first started hunting you could not use a rifle in NY with the exception of wildness areas like the Adirondack and Catskill parks. In the early 2000's a rule change was proposed to allow rifles to be used in some of the more rural counties in upstate NY.

There was a lot of outcry (mainly from sportsman) that there would be an increased accident and fatality rate if the rifle zone were expanded. This is very similar to what I have heard from other sportsman here in Indiana. However over the course of five or six years the use of rifles was slowly expanded to include almost all of upstate NY with the exception of highly populated areas or areas which had little topography (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and the lake plains region).

There was no spike or even increase in the accident rate with the vast majority of accidents taking place at close range in heavy cover (the rifles increased range having no bearing on the type of accidents).

The majority of counties south of Indianapolis are very similar in topography and population to many counties in upstate NY (not considering the Adirondack region). If rifles were approved I do not believe that there would be an increased risk in hunting accidents. Furthermore I believe allowing rifles may actually increase safety due to the majority of rifles having optics which forces the user to confirm the target at long range vs. a shotgun or similar firearm which often times is used at close range in heavy cover (just my 2 cents).

Furthermore with declining hunter recruitment I believe we should do everything possible to get more people involved in the shooting sports. If allowing the use of rifles might help get more people in the woods I view the benefit as far outweighing the risk. There is always some risk associated with the shooting sports but in my experience the highest risk factor is the individual behind the firearm making the decision and not the weapon of choice. I make that statement based on being shot at during deer season on three separate occasions by shotgun hunters (prior to the approval of rifle use).

Thank you for your time

Jared Spokowsky

Milan IN

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 5:11:07 PM

**Commenter Name** Nathan t Hahaj

**City** Elkhart **County** ELKHART **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** Nhahaj@hotmail.com

**Comments** What IDNR stands for....

Indiana Dictatorship of the Natural Resource

So tired of trying voice opinion to help the environment within this state and they still don't listen. I am shamed of this state and it rules coming into effect this new year! Thanks for ruining our deer population. When we need to start being conservative on our deer population for its in the decline.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 5:17:03 PM

**Commenter Name** Rob Caudill

**City** Charlestown **County** CLARK **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** rwc2504@twc.com

**Comments** I would like to express concern to limit the amount of rounds that could be used in a high powered rifle. I suggest 5 rounds max. Also I do not think semi automatic rifles should be allowed, only a bolt action, lever action or break

open firearm should be authorized. I see no need for a semi automatic rifle with a 10, 20 or 30 round magazine being needed to hunt in Indiana. I like the option of the rifle, but I think that safety is the most important thing when it comes to hunting and trying to promote the outdoor experience to our youth. Thank you.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 5:55:49 PM

**Commenter Name** Dan Surface

**City** Auburn **County** DEKALB **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** dlsurface@gmail.com

**Comments** I oppose the new changes for rifles. I feel that in most Indiana counties that these types of rifle cartridges will carry too far and that residents would be at risk of bodily injury or property damage. It also seems that these rifles would rapidly decrease the deer population in a short period of time reducing the opportunities to harvest deer each year.

Regards,

Dan Surface

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 8:09:51 PM

**Commenter Name** Brian Riehle

**City** Romney **County** MONTGOMERY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** briehe56@hotmail.com

**Comments** I am against the proposed rule change for rifles for deer hunting. Indiana is too populated and most of the state is too flat for high powered rifles to be used by so many for deer hunting. I am also against the proposed changes to the urban deer zone. As it stands now, the deer population in Indiana has dropped significantly in the past 4 years. I believe allowing such liberal bag limits and firearms is irresponsible management of the states resources.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 9:26:24 PM

**Commenter Name** Jeremy Robinson

**City** Vevay **County** SWITZERLAND **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** opjrobin@gmail.com

**Comments** This has been the worst deer season we have had in several years, between the diseases and the state letting so many deer being killed. I hear way to many guys say they shot at a deer and missed it but then say they didn't even walk 80 yards to look for it, this will get worst with the high powered rifles. To many people will be buying a gun and taking them out thinking they can shoot 300+ yards and wounding deer. Before you vote on this think about how President Obama would vote on this and do opposite what he would do.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 9:34:03 PM

**Commenter Name** Jim Lilly

**City** Loogootee **County** MARTIN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jimlillyjr@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am in favor of the new rifle proposal. Long over due. Hunters can hunt safe and effective with a rifle. less wounded deer. More humane and quicker way to harvest an animal.

thanks for considring my comment

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 9:43:53 PM

**Commenter Name** John Lumaye

**City** New Castle **County** HENRY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jllumaye@comcast.net

**Comments** I oppose the use of the hi powered rifles to deer hunt in the state of Indiana. What mountain range do we have we have here that would give hunters a 300 yard or more shot? As responsible hunters people know their capabilities and the capabilities of their rifle. I feel that the safety of the citizens and the hunters of this state will be at risk with the use of long range hi powered rifles. Once you pull the trigger you do not have a recall button.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 9:59:14 PM

**Commenter Name** John Lumaye

**City** New Castle **County** HENRY **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jllumaye@comcast.net

**Comments** I oppose the use of the hi powered rifles to deer hunt in the state of Indiana. What mountain range do we have we have here that would give hunters a 300 yard or more shot? As responsible hunters people know their capabilities and the capabilities of their rifle. I feel that the safety of the citizens and the hunters of this state will be at risk with the use of long range hi powered rifles. Once you pull the trigger you do not have a recall button.

**Comment Received** 12/15/2014 10:01:20 PM

**Commenter Name** Scott Schindler

**City** New Albany **County** FLOYD **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** scotty1969@sbcglobal.net

**Comments** I think the rule changes are fine. I am not sure of the reasoning you offered, but the rules are sound enough. I am concerned with the wording in regards to lifetime licenses being "before repeal". It makes it sound like they are no longer

valid, or could be repealed at a later date. I am also curious on why we still have the silly baiting restriction. With all the supplemental feed that is on the market and attractants sold in every store why not let us use them to our advantage. I mean seriously the DNR plants acres of sunflowers for doves and that is fine. but a bird feeder is illegal. Just like rifles, other surrounding states allow baiting and have not seen any ill effects. It would also free up our CO's to do more important work. It baffles me that 10 acres of standing corn isn't baiting but a pile in a cut corn field is. All in all I am pleased with the changes. Keep up the good work

**Comment Received** 12/16/2014 12:37:40 AM

**Commenter Name** Julie Pease

**City** Kendallville **County** NOBLE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jp0846@ligtel.com

**Comments** This high-powered rifle idea for deer hunting is ridiculous, dangerous, and not necessary. We have had neighbors who have had their home struck by regular firing hunting guns, I feel that in these well populated rural areas of Indiana, this would be a deadly law to pass.

**Comment Received** 12/16/2014 8:12:39 AM

**Commenter Name** Brett Hicks

**City** Spiceland **County** HENRY **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** brethicks86@yahoo.com

**Comments** My comments pertain to the proposed rule change associated with allowing high-power rifles. The reasons stated for which this change can be made are extremely misguided for the following reasons:

- o "There are currently no limits on rifles that are legal to use for species other than migratory birds, deer and wild turkey."
- With the exception of varmint and deer hunting, the use of a rifle or slug projectile is impractical and places the hunter at a disadvantage to successfully harvesting the intended game species. Therefore, while no limits are currently in place for the remaining game species, I strongly believe that a hunter will select the "tool best fit for the job". As mentioned, outside of varmint and deer hunting a shotgun loaded with "shot" would provide the greatest success rate.
- While there aren't limits currently restricting the use of rifles for other species outside of migratory birds, deer and wild turkey, there are immensely more participants during deer hunting than all other game species. This participation gap will only likely increase with the rifle proposal, because now it will be even easier for a non-hunter to go to Wal-Mart and purchase a high-power rifle and a box of ammo the night before season and go out and shoot the first thing that comes into sight. With a rifle the perceived "kill range" now increases drastically. Now we have inexperienced shooters attempting to take shots from extreme distances more than likely wounding more deer than humanely killing.
- o "Muzzleloaders have evolved to the point that with smokeless powder (which is legal to use), they are essentially a high-powered rifle (accurate 500-yard gun)."
- The statement of an accurate 500 yard muzzleloader is extremely misrepresentative. The overwhelming vast majority of off the shelf muzzle loading rifles used are capable of shooting accurately to a range of 250 yards maximum not 500. Accurately shooting any rifle at 500 yards takes a huge amount of practice and skill. The majority of Indiana deer hunter are likely not capable of accurately shooting 500 yards. Additionally, a muzzle loading rifle projectile is a relatively large slug compared to the lower end of the proposed rifle calibers. Therefore, a muzzleloader will not travel near as far as a high-powered rifle.
- o "They are legal in several nearby states, including Kentucky, Michigan (the northern part of the state) and Pennsylvania. There has been no increase in hunting-related accidents as the result of the use of rifles, neither in Indiana nor in several other states where they are allowed."
- The comparison of Indiana to the nearby states of Kentucky, Michigan (the northern part of the state) and Pennsylvania is ridiculous. The terrain of Indiana is nowhere near that of the three mentioned states. With the approval of the proposed rifle rule, the risk of hunting related accidents will increase drastically due to the extreme range of a high-powered rifle projectiles combined with increased number of deer hunters shooting high-powered rifles, Indiana's flat terrain and large population density. This is a recipe for disaster.
- o "There isn't a need to limit the equipment that can be used to take deer in order to manage the deer herd. The deer harvest was a record in 2012, and the DNR is managing the deer herd through other means."
- This statement seems to be a key proponent for "if it isn't broke don't fix it". According to multiple deer harvest records in recent years, the proposed rifle rule appears to be unwarranted. The current legal deer hunting equipment is effectively managing the Indiana deer herd without increasing the risk of hunting related accidents.
- o "Rifle cartridges that fire a bullet at least .243 in diameter and have a minimum case length of 1.16 inches long can safely and humanely kill white-tailed deer."
- This statement is accurate. However, this statement is not a significant factor supporting the use of high-powered rifles in Indiana.

**Comment Received** 12/16/2014 9:18:48 AM

**Commenter Name** Dave Randall

**City** North Manchester **County** WABASH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** darandall@cinergymetro.net

**Comments** Regarding the change in the rifle rule ... I feel adding some rifles would be fine ... There are some powerful rifles that doesn't need to be used ... 30-06, 7mm mag, 300 mag, these type rifles in our county would be over kill and our land is to flat ... You do not have enough officers to handle all of the complaints you will have ... Thank You for letting me voice my opinion ...

Dave Randall



601 E 900 N  
North Manchester, IN 46962  
260-466-1233  
**Comment Received 12/16/2014 9:22:11 AM**

**Commenter Name** Jack Stackman  
**City** Maxwell **County** HANCOCK **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** Malachi31619@aol.com  
**Comments** The addition of high powered rifles would be more humane and end with less wounded deer. It is good for Indiana.  
**Comment Received 12/16/2014 12:30:46 PM**

**Commenter Name** William McElhaney  
**City** Marion **County** GRANT **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** will.mac52@yahoo.com  
**Comments** Please, Please for safety's sake do not add high-power rifles!  
**Comment Received 12/16/2014 12:32:58 PM**

**Commenter Name** Rick Speigle  
**City** Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** In  
**E-Mail Address** rlspeigle@yahoo.com  
**Comments** Is there no common sense anymore? It's bad enough that you allowed center fire ammunition to be used in a hand cannon, now you want to allow it in rifles? There is nowhere in central and northern Indiana where you can stand and turn 360 degrees and not see a building, structure, road, cars or people. Now you want to thousands of people with little or no experience with high caliber rifles in the fields with guns that can send a bullet up to several miles. And with the higher velocity even a ricochet can carry as far. Do you understand why Michigan won't allow them in the southern part of the state. We don't have the area for high caliber cartridge deer hunting. Todays shotguns and muzzle loaders are capable of shooting 200 yards and then lose velocity quickly. There is just to high of a risk of property damage and injury or death by allowing this. I am a property owner with other hunters all around me. I shouldn't have to worry every time I enter my woods of being shot or killed by a stray bullet. Two years ago I had a close call when a bullet zipped through the grass 25 feet in front of me. The neighbors house and barn where 100 yards north of me and I'm not sure if there was any damage. They kept shooting so I ran to the house and called the sheriff. They talked to the land owner a half mile south of me who had an improper backstop. I can see the writing on the wall, can you?  
**Comment Received 12/16/2014 4:43:53 PM**

**Commenter Name** Joey Francis  
**City** Mentone **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** Joeytina705@gmail.com  
**Comments** My name is Joey Francis and I live in Mentone. Like many avid outdoorsman I myself grew up in a hunting family. I started at a very young age hunting rabbits with my father and grandfather and some of my best memories growing was spending time listing to beagles run a rabbit through the briars and the woods. My father taught me at a very young age how to safely carry and operate a gun. He then took me deer hunting for the first time when I was 8 years old. (I'm 36 now) I can still remember waking up that first morning and going to the woods with him and listening to Mother Nature wake up and thinking that this is the coolest thing in the world! Year after year I still sit in my Treestand or ground blind thinking the same thing. Now I have my wife and my 8 year old son going with me and eventually my twin 4 year olds will going also. You are probably wondering if I'm going to get to the point of this comment but I wanted you to understand where I came from and where my family and I are headed in the future of the outdoors. You also may be thinking what does rabbit hunting have to do with the proposed rifle season. Well now here's for my opinion and concerns. Where we live at and where we hunt at is a very precious place. Now when I want to take my son out to bust up some rabbits now I have to worry about someone in the neighboring woods or fence line shooting in our direction with a high powered rifle that could kill us. Now hunter orange may protect most of us and common sence would tell most not to shoot in the direction of anyone or thing that has hunter orange on it but...you can't protect us from stupidity! When I can go out and sit in anyone of my treestands or ground blinds and see a house or road in the distance tells me that a high powered rifle is not an option. When ballistics reports prove that a ricocheted bullet from a high powered rifle can travel many miles before hitting the ground scares the crap out of me! I have a lot of friends and coworkers that are avid deer hunters and most if not all have had problems harvesting deer this year and last. Our deer herd population is dropping every year and it is to the point where I fear that my children will not be able to experience what I did growing up and it makes me sick. I am an active committee member of our local NWTF chapter and we always talk about ways to get our youth involved in the outdoors and it is going to continue to be a struggle if our deer population continue to decline. When I used to be able to see 20 deer in a single sitting to now seeing maybe 4-5 to me means that you have made some horrible decisions on the county bonus limits. These limits (in my opinion) need to be reduced dramatically if you want our future outdoorsman to experience what we all grew up doing.

Again these are my opinions (fears, concerns and frustrations) with the proposed rifle rule. Please feel free to email me back.

Thanks,  
Joey Francis

**Comment Received 12/16/2014 7:33:17 PM**

**Commenter Name** jason buckles

**City** columbia city **County** WHITLEY **State** indiana

**E-Mail Address** jbuckles@centurylink.net

**Comments** My name is Jason Buckles from Whitley county. I am commenting on the proposed use of high power rifles. I believe that they are uncalled for in this part of the state. Where I live and hunt there are houses, roads, and buildings directly behind all of the large tracts of farm ground that everyone believes is so safe to shoot across. I have hunted for twenty six years and do not see where a high powered rifle would have helped me to safely take a deer. People are not taking into consideration the amount of people that actually go to the woods in this area. I have friends who have moved here from Nebraska and South Dakota, both states allow high powered rifles, who refuse to hunt deer here during shotgun season. Simply for the fact that "they saw orange in every tree while they were driving down the road". These comments were made to me even before Indiana allowed the use of pistol caliber rifles. Most of the people I know are responsible hunters. Everyone knows some that are not, that is the problem. Even some of the people that are regarded as being responsible have been known to develop so called tunnel vision when a deer comes into their cross hairs. Some will be out in the fields taking six to seven hundred yard shots that they have never attempted before. Most people in this area believe at distances like that the bullets energy has been spent by the time it gets there, when in actuality it has not. Another issue that i would like to address is the lack of deer being seen. The last two years have been the worst for seeing deer while hunting or even driving in the morning and evening just looking for them. It upsets me that there is a rule being considered on the the amount of bluegill that can be taken per day, but that a person can kill unlimited deer as long as they have enough time to go from county to county to meet the county's bonus quota. The fact that the state is more concerned about the amount of fish in a lake than the quality of the deer herd is extremely upsetting!

**Comment Received 12/16/2014 10:16:18 PM**

**Commenter Name** Chris Tolbert

**City** Mitchell **County** LAWRENCE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** ctolbert21@gmail.com

**Comments** I feel that using high powered rifle for deer hunting will increase your shooting ability. Therefore you might have less wounded deer wondering of and dying. A good hunter wouldn't be any more dangerous with a rifle than he would with any other weapon due to the fact that he is responsible and knows his surroundings. The ones that would be dangerous are already dangerous. Thank you.

**Comment Received 12/16/2014 11:22:53 PM**

**Commenter Name** Jonathan Everhart

**City** Arlington **County** RUSH **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** jeverhart00@yahoo.com

**Comments** I am not in favor of high powered rifles to be used for deer hunting. There are too many hunters and not enough responsible hunters out in the woods. Please vote no!!

**Comment Received 12/16/2014 11:24:50 PM**

**Commenter Name** Eric Brandon Amos

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** merlin1976@hotmail.com

**Comments** As rifles are able to be used to hunt almost all other animals I think its silly to have a law that limits hunters only hunting deer.

**Comment Received 12/16/2014 11:42:28 PM**

**Commenter Name** kendall martin

**City** rochester **County** FULTON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** kendallmartin30@yahoo.com

**Comments** REALLY ? Who's the guy who thought of this ? I feel like my life is in danger during shotgun season now were gonna allow RIFLES ? Come on now !!! There no way we need to encourage fencerow hunter into taking longer shots out into my fields ! They seem to think its OK to do with shotgun ! Now were gonna allow them to try 200 -300 yrd shots ? Only way I would be OK with it is if its a 4 day season !

**Comment Received 12/17/2014 6:24:16 AM**

**Commenter Name** Keith Dunlap

**City** Greenwood **County** JOHNSON **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** keith.dunlap@juno.com

**Comments** I own several large tract of land surrounded by other large tract of land. I do not generally allow hunting on my property and spend a great deal of time on my property, even during hunting season. I do not like the thought of expanding higher-powered rifles such that there could be more stray rounds finding their way on to my property while I'm enjoying my land from hunters on adjacent properties. There is simply no justification to increase my risk of being innocently injured and I'm offended by those who argue I should not be out in the wood on my own property during hunting season.

Further, I'm not opposed to hunting, and my sister is very much into hunting, but changing the rules to reduce the skills of hunting (e.g., part of hunting is knowing where to be so the deer is close enough to take) removes some of the sportsmanship of the activity.

In conclusion, I'm very much against expanding the size of rifle bullets allowed.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 6:58:57 AM

**Commenter Name** Patrick Kendall

**City** Mooresville **County** MORGAN **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** patrickmkendall@yahoo.com

**Comments** I currently do not hunt, but I do have plans to do so in the future. I see no reason why one should not be allowed to use "high-powered rifle cartridges" that are already lawful to use on other game, to hunt deer with.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 10:16:29 AM

**Commenter Name** Dan Apple

**City** Scottsburg **County** SCOTT **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** dan.apple@twc.com

**Comments** Please approve these changes and especially lifting the rifle restrictions for deer hunting.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 10:43:55 AM

**Commenter Name** Randy Robertson

**City** Bloomington **County** MONROE **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** rrobertson331@comcast.net

**Comments** I support the proposed amendments to the rifle calibre/cartridge restrictions for use when hunting deer. Thank you.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 11:30:00 AM

**Commenter Name** Matthew Bugos

**City** Chesterton **County** LAPORTE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** Mattbisfarve@hotmail.com

**Comments** I am writing this in protest to the state allowing more calibers for deer season.

With the high pressure and amount of hunters already hunting state properties in my counties we will soon have no deer left to hunt. If a "hunter" isn't skilled Enough to harvest a deer with the means already available then they need to Practice. The state needs to focus on bringing up the deer population, not depleting It further. If this is means for more revenue please take into consideration how much Revenue will be lost by hunters not purchasing future licenses because of an unhealthy Deer population. Where I live we already have farmers handing out tags to harvest Ridiculous amounts of "nuisance" deer, and we'll have to compete with insurance companies Paying for deer thinning. That's not to mention that coyotes, cwd, and blue tongue have also taken a toll. Maybe the state should send a biologist to get numbers from somewhere besides the State Forests.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 12:08:31 PM

**Commenter Name** Thomas Buffum

**City** Logansport **County** CASS **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** tbuffum@gmail.com

**Comments** As a deer hunter, I fully support the proposed rule change regarding the use of traditional rifles during firearms season. My grandfather was an avid hunter who traveled all over the United States to hunt. When he passed away, I inherited one of his 30-06 hunting rifles. For years, I have wanted nothing more than to be able to hunt deer with his rifle, as he had years ago. Unfortunately, I cannot afford to go on the hunting trips that he did, so his rifle must stay in the safe for now. I sincerely hope that the proposed rules are implemented for next year.

I look forward to joining thousands of responsible Indiana deer hunters next season, with my grandfather's rifle.

Thank you.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 12:11:59 PM

**Commenter Name** DAN PFOFF

**City** VINCENNES **County** KNOX **State** INDIANA

**E-Mail Address** dpfoff@cinergymetro.net

**Comments** Rule 312 1ac 9-3-3: concerning rifles for deer hunting.

I feel this is a big mistake for the Southern parts of Indiana. Where we hunt many flat open fields and property boundaries are close. I know the hunters near us will be back in tree lines killing anything that moves on our property. Very dangerous and will cause fighting among hunters. If you feel you must have the rule, which is ridiculous, consider qualifying it for the Central part of the State where it is much more hilly. Similar to what Michigan does. Also your comment about muzzle loaders is total B.S. - 500 yards, come on, plus there are not nearly as many muzzle loading hunters as there will be rifle hunters. There will be tons of hunters in this Southern region that will post up on levees and shoot everything in any field. No need for this new ruling ! And don't tell me that game wardens can prevent this, we never see game wardens. Our deer counts seem to be down now, no need to kill a deer 500 yards away. No thanks to brown and its down in our State !!

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 12:15:44 PM

**Commenter Name** Eric Carnes  
**City** Warsaw **County** KOSCIUSKO **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** carnes\_199@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I have hunted Kosciusko county for whitetails for 17 years. During these 17 years I have had struggles and plenty of success hunting these great animals. At no point in these years have ever felt like my equipment was inadequate or felt the need for more power or range out of my rifle. Majority of first years I used a 20 gauge single shot with great success. I am opposed to the legalization of high powered rifles. I feel it would be irresponsible of our great state to pass this amendment!  
**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 12:39:34 PM

**Commenter Name** John L. Clodfelter  
**City** Richmond, **County** WAYNE **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** Jclod1943@me.com  
**Comments** I oppose any rule change that would permit the use of high powered rifles in deer hunting in Indiana. Our terrain is to flat and the state too populated for such hunting. It would be bad public policy.  
**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 12:39:45 PM

**Commenter Name** Dustin M Campbell  
**City** elizabeth **County** HARRISON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** dustinmichael81@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I have been hunting deer here for 20 years and have never had a problem with killing deer with a shotgun. Most shots are within 100 yards in the woods anyway. I own all kinds of different types of guns even have a couple I could use if rule is adopted, but I'm hoping it gets shot down. Not every hunter out there is responsible and when a deer gets in front of you you don't always think about what is behind where you are firing. One story I recall in Kentucky is of a mother sitting on her couch with her small baby and getting shot in the head by a stray bullet from a hunter. Never heard a story like that about shotguns, or the rifles that are legal now. Let's leave this alone. If we want to work on lowering the deer population let's start the season earlier and run gun season longer. Last few years seems like the rut is almost over during gun season.  
**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 1:15:18 PM

**Commenter Name** Jim Strickland  
**City** Carmel **County** HAMILTON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** lkhnt1@hotmail.com  
**Comments** I would like to express my support for the proposed rule change, allowing center fire rifles to be used during the rifle hunting season. As a hunter living in Indiana, originally from Montana, I heartily endorse the use of high power rifles for a more humane method of killing deer. I have found several deer wounded by shotgun hits, that were lost to the hunter due to lack of knock down power. The killing power and accuracy of the high power rifle far surpass the shotgun. I believe there is an argument that hunters will be more willing to practice to improve their shooting skills as the high power rifle with scope, in the traditional deer hunting calibers, will be less punishing the the shooter as far as recoil impacts them and give them the confidence they can make a well places shot.  
 Thank you for considering this long over due change to the regulations.  
 Sincerely,  
 Jim Strickland  
 14083 Colville Cir  
 Carmel, IN 46033  
 317-716-4437  
**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 1:42:35 PM

**Commenter Name** Jason Sager  
**City** Covington **County** FOUNTAIN **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** ldouffitters@yahoo.com  
**Comments** I am for the adoption of rifles for hunting deer in the state of Indiana. I believe that giving the people a chance to use rifles will increase the amount of people that are hunting deer. I also believe it will introduce younger people to the sport of deer hunting given the less felt recoil in many of the rifles compared to a shotgun.  
**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 1:50:12 PM

**Commenter Name** Theresa Pierce  
**City** Mooreland **County** HENRY **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** theresakj@hotmail.com  
**Comments** I live in a rural area with a lot of random shooting for practice goes on. It is a flat open area. The last thing that needs to be legal is for hunting with guns that shoot further. One of these days, a homeowner is going to be shot by a stray bullet from some idiot hunter. Leave the laws on firearms and hunting alone. Better yet, make them a bit more restrictive and let's set some times too - no more shooting after dark or before daylight!  
**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 2:01:06 PM

**Commenter Name** Charlie Raines  
**City** Monticello **County** WHITE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** charlie.raines@yahoo.com

**Comments** To whom it may concern

I as my family are avid hunters, filling our freezers with wild game is our way of life. The new proposal of high powered rifles concerns me greatly. I have read many articles from Indiana writers and spoke to several hunters and landowners that are completely against this. As in every debate there is two sides of seeing things and I know this matter is no different.

As I said my whole life is about the outdoors, always has been and always will be as many other great Indiana hunters. However I do a lot of reloading and shooting and understand ballistic very well. I know that a .308 or .300 win mag that is shot across frozen ground turns into at the minimum mile gun when it ricochets across it.

Indiana's deer hunter more than double during firearms season by a lot of people who do not hunter any more than those two weeks out of the year, many of them are at best novice hunters. It is a scary thought for someone such as myself who will have a 9 year hunting from a pop up blind for his first hunt next season with novice hunters taking ridiculous shots. Those are the same folks that shoot a 12 gauge at a deer running full steam 300 yards out there and we are considering putting a .308 with a 30 round clip in there hand???? What would be the reasoning for that because I don't understand. They compare the modern day muzzleloader to rifles in some articles I have seen, what they don't say is that is with smokeless powder.

The state says 2012 was the best deer season the state has seen, what about the harvest being down 28% in 2013 and I have no doubt it will be down in 2014 even. Going to guess some of the comes from the online check system and a lot of deer just aren't getting checked in. In my business I get to see farmers and hunters every day and most farmers from my parts said they will shut hunting of period in it passes. That isn't helping control our deer herds but it seems that a lot are wanting the herd completely destroyed.

All that I ask is we think about this issue very carefully, the danger it puts Indiana hunters, farmers and people sitting in their house in is far to great to.

Thanks

Charlie Raines

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 2:13:13 PM

**Commenter Name** Brian Mundy

**City** Newburgh **County** WARRICK **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** brianmundy1@gmail.com

**Comments** I am commenting on the proposed amendment to allow rifle cartridges of .243 and larger.

I am for this amendment.

I currently only hunt in Kentucky specifically to use a high powered rifle. If passed I will bring my hunting dollars back to Indiana.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 2:35:50 PM

**Commenter Name** Chadwick A Peebles

**City** Rosedale **County** PARKE **State** Indiana

**E-Mail Address** peebles24@yahoo.com

**Comments** I feel that rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 on deer needs amended in the proposed manner. The former case length and diameter restrictions did not do anything but restrict people on a budget. There are cases that have been developed just to squeeze into that rule that are very capable out to and past 400 yards. A .243 is a excellent deer rifle that has been proven for years in other states. The .308 is another great proven round. However I do believe that extreme long range rifles such as a 50 BMG, .418 cheytech, and maybe even 300 ultra mag should be restricted.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 2:37:09 PM

**Commenter Name** John Switzer

**City** Center Point **County** CLAY **State** IN

**E-Mail Address** jswitzer42@frontier.com

**Comments** I live in a rural, wooded area where hunting is prevalent. Due to the flat terrain and reckless individuals (not just hunters), it is reasonably common to have stray bullets impact near our residence. Allowing high powered rifles to be used during the deer (or any) hunting season would increase the likelihood of serious damage and injury in areas similar to where we live. The population density in most of Indiana is not conducive to use of high powered rifles.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 2:51:24 PM

**Commenter Name** Elinda Townsend

**City** Indianapolis **County** MARION **State** Indiana

<p><b>Organization (optional) self</b>  <b>E-Mail Address</b> da1send@yahoo.com  <b>Comments</b> 312 IAC 9-3-3: proposed changes of 28-gauge shotgun unnecessary and also the wording adding the use of .243 bullet size unnecessary. Remove wording.  312 IAC 9-5-6: If the number of soft-shell, Eastern snapping and similar turtles cannot sustain with current bag limits, then maybe the harvest of these should be eliminated? Sounds good to me.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 2:52:34 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> JIM HORTON  <b>City</b> CORYDON <b>County</b> HARRISON <b>State</b> INDIANA  <b>E-Mail Address</b> JIMHORTON7@HOTMAIL.COM  <b>Comments</b> I am in favor of the proposed rule change allowing rifles as written. This would allow use of rifles as in other states, gives us more ammo choices, and as mentioned my muzzle loader shoots just as far now. Please register my support. Thank you.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 3:22:12 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Stephen Sparks  <b>City</b> Winslow <b>County</b> PIKE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> sparksofpik@frontier.com  <b>Comments</b> In reference to the high powered rifle proposed changes, I am for it. High powered rifles are designed for medium and large game. It increased our choices, saves money and encourages new hunters to hunt in Indiana and not go out of state. Please pass this proposed rule. Thank you  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 3:40:19 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Cynthia Sparks  <b>City</b> Winslow <b>County</b> PIKE <b>State</b> Indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> sparksofpik@frontier.com  <b>Comments</b> Please allow the change with high powered rifles. My husband, I and other family members every year travel out of state to hunt with a high powered rifle. Out of state license are very expensive. I am a small framed female over 55 that would like to hunt deer but the guns used are either inadequate or too costly. Making it not enjoyable at this time. I am in favor of this change. Give the hunting residents of Indiana the choice whether to use a rifle during specific dates in deer season.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 3:56:30 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Richie Whitman  <b>City</b> Bloomfield <b>County</b> GREENE <b>State</b> In  <b>E-Mail Address</b> r.whitman@sbcglobal.net  <b>Comments</b> The use of high powered rifles is over kill in this state. I can imagine some one shooting 200 plus yards across a field at a deer and the back stop being a tree row with a hunter in it . This is not something I want on my mind  If I had to approve any new cartridges the old standby 30-30 and 35 rem. and others of this velocity would be the only ones approved . thank you  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 4:00:09 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> dave clemons jr  <b>City</b> palmyra <b>County</b> HARRISON <b>State</b> IN  <b>E-Mail Address</b> davidsjunkstuff66@gmail.com  <b>Comments</b> please adopt the rule making hi-power legal for deer hunting.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 7:01:40 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Brandon Webb  <b>City</b> losantville <b>County</b> RANDOLPH <b>State</b> indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> wheeliewebb@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I've been a hunter in Indiana for roughly 20 years. My personal feelings may be different then some. I feel quite worried about being in the woods with guys hunting with SKS,AK's and similar weapons. I have younger children and a wife who enjoy hunting and they too are "scared" about these proposed changes. I think leaving the law at .357 with NO cartridge length and NO semi auto rifles would be a better "start". Then, look at a couple years from then and make another change if needed. Also, the thought of starting a deer tag called like "my first deer" that would allow people to buy this tag once and let the tag be expiration date free till used would be great!!! This would allow the less hard ship on some family's and hopefully keep on the hunting tradition for the next generations. Thanks  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 7:04:41 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> andrew niedermeyer  <b>City</b> fort wayne <b>County</b> ALLEN <b>State</b> indiana  <b>E-Mail Address</b> duckhuntr66@hotmail.com  <b>Comments</b> I am against the rule change of allowing rifles for deer hunting. The guns that are legal now are all we need.  <b>Comment Received</b> 12/17/2014 7:31:02 PM</p>
<p><b>Commenter Name</b> Richard Bottorff</p>

**City Salem County WASHINGTON State Indiana**

**E-Mail Address** bottorff.eric@yahoo.com

**Comments** I think the changes to the rifle section is needed but I also think there might need to be a maximum restriction. I do not think that some rifles like a 338 Lapua or 50 BMG should be legal. There is many caliber that would work very well for deer hunting and would not pose a huge risk to other hunters or anyone else. In fact some of the calibers out there would be safer than current weapons used today. One possible change to the rule could be that short action rifles are the only one's legal but I do not think that a 30-06 or 270 are a big risk either. I am totally behind the change with some slight modifications. I would not want the job of trying to make everyone happy.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 7:45:49 PM

**Commenter Name** Brooks Thorgren

**City LaPorte County LAPORTE State IN**

**E-Mail Address** bthorgren@hotmail.com

**Comments** I am writing with concern on the proposed rule 312 IAC 9-3-3 ,regarding the use of rifles during Indiana's firearm season.I and many others I know feel this is a very unsafe&bad idea.Our state is too populated I feel for the use of higher caliber rifles. I am all for more seasons&anything related to getting more sportsman outdoors,however this is not a smart move. There are just too many houses,farms,other wildlife&most importantly humans who could be affected in a major accident. With the last rule change for the legal use of PCR's I feel is plenty enough "gun" to get the job done.Along with muzzle loaders. I know a muzzleloader can shoot as far as some of the proposed rifles,but at least it is limited to a single shot. I hate to say it,firearm season brings out hunters who only hunt a few days a year and with a rifle of a higher caliber in hand they will be more prone to shoot longer, multiple unsafe shots at a running deer and avoid knowing what is behind said animal. It just wont be safe. I strongly urge you to reconsider this rule change. I appreciate you for letting me voice my concern.Other than this law,I love the DNR&enjoy the encounters I have had afield by CO's.They have always shown me respect and been cautious as to not spoil the hunt. Again,I hate to say "no"since I am 100% for hunters rights,but on this issue I hope it does not pass. Again,it wont be safe. I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this&giving me the option to let my voice be heard. Thank you for your time.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 8:07:53 PM

**Commenter Name** Jim Wilson

**City Indianapolis County MARION State Indianapolis**

**E-Mail Address** ewt@att.net

**Comments** Firearms Start Date: I've never understood the logic behind the firearms season opening as late as the middle of November. The best time to hunt is during the seeking and chase phases of the rut - not the time during which bucks are locked down with does as happens in the middle of the month. Open the gun season the first full weekend of November. I'm also a bow hunter and see no conflict whatsoever.

Rifle Calibers: Center fire rifles have a max range of between 2.5 and 3.5 miles. Let's start with those in the lower to middle range first. There's going to be many hunters at once in a more heavily populated state that is very flat in the northern portion. I would suggest "short action" , "non-magnum" calibers with a minimum of 100 grain bullets to start with, and see if there are any problems with property damage or other concerns for a couple of years. Examples are .243, 6mm Rem, .257 Roberts, .250-3000 Savage, 6.5x52, 6.5x54, 6.5x55, 6.5x57, 7x57 Mauser, 7mm-08, .284 Win., 30-30 Win., .300 Savage, .308 Win, 7.62x54 Russian, .348 Win, 35 Rem, .358 Win, .375 Win, and .444 Marlin. This is quite a long list to pick from. This list obviously disqualifies the popular 25-06, .270 Win, 30-06, 7mm Rem, and the more common magnum cartridges. These latter, more high performance calibers, could be brought in later if everything works out. I think it's prudent to ease into this at first, and yes, I'm an avid rifleman and deer hunter.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 8:22:30 PM

**Commenter Name** John Myers

**City Winchester County RANDOLPH State IN**

**E-Mail Address** jsmyers51@gmail.com

**Comments** Don't understand what the reasoning is on proposed centerfire rifle being legal for deer next year. I believe DNR is releasing wolves in a secret manner and now with the proposed rifle law are you trying to deplete the state deer herd even more?

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 8:25:29 PM

**Commenter Name** Kyle Brown

**City Mentone County KOSCIUSKO State Indiana**

**E-Mail Address** tippecanoebrown@gmail.com

**Comments** These comments are in response to the proposal to allow additional rifles to be used to hunt deer. I feel that there should be a more clear explanation as to why these changes are being made. I am not against the use of rifles in and of itself, but the repercussions of the approval of more readily available rifles need to be addressed. Is the desire to kill more deer at the core of this proposal? It seems that rifles capable of shooting much greater distances than shotguns are just as easily available and will undoubtedly lead to the harvest of greater amounts of deer. If the population of deer in this state has gotten out of control, many people don't notice it, but the reduction of the deer herd seems to be the only reasonable guess as to why we would want to allow rifles to be allowed. In a heavily wooded/mountainous area, such as Northern Michigan or the mountains of Kentucky, I can see where this would not cause a problem of safety and/or a greater possibility of breaking hunting regulations such as property boundaries, but in Northern Indiana, where the landscape is much more open than the

aforementioned areas, and where the population density is such that there are houses easily within sight (and therefore within effective range of most rifles) of properties that most individuals hunt, it seems that the adoption or more liberal laws concerning the use of a greater number of rifles is unsafe at best, and even might be considered reckless when such long distance weapons are placed into the hands of inexperienced, uneducated, and outright unethical hunters.

Also, as mentioned previously, I feel that we must mention and pay appropriate attention to the fact that, all things being equal, this will inevitably lead to a reduction in the number of deer in Indiana. This is just another in a series of regulatory changes that have seemed to aim at the reduction of the deer population in this state. Antlerless limits, in my area at least, rose dramatically recently and only this past year did they drop down to what I still feel is a bit high. Some rifles were admitted in recent years that helped individuals I know of bag deer that they otherwise would not have even fired at. There is an extra shotgun season now in January. Perhaps I am uninformed or just unlucky, but I don't see a population that is outside of the limitations of the available environment and resources. The fact, however, remains that there will be more (if not a large amount more) deer killed next year provided that the exact same hunters go out and even a small portion of them choose to use rifles. This number will only rise as more and more hunters aim to eliminate the possibility of a deer skirting just outside the range of their shotgun--one can solve that problem quickly with a long range rifle.

So if I am just uninformed or alarmed for no reason about the safety concerns of these weapons in the landscape in which we inhabit, I still feel it necessary to discuss the impact on the deer population. One possible rule change that might negate the greater number of deer killed is to change the time in which firearms are permitted for hunting deer. Perhaps the season could be moved back to a time where deer are not in the middle of the rut and therefore more likely to be killed with any weapon, let alone a rifle that is capable of shooting hundreds of yards farther than a compound bow. I feel that, at very least, those making the decisions about the proposal to allow all rifles .243 or larger should adequately define their reasoning. Is it to reduce the deer population? If so, I feel it is necessary for these people to provide evidence that there is a problem with the population. Otherwise, it seems to conspiracy theorists throughout the state that there is presently an attempt to eradicate whitetail deer from this state. I understand that that is a ridiculous accusation, but without proper information being provided with these and other recent rule changes, it doesn't necessarily seem like a "stupid" deduction, for lack of a better word. In closing, I have previously and still do strongly believe that moving the firearms season would be helpful, especially now that each hunter who uses a rifle will be, without a doubt, more lethal on more deer. Thank you for listening to the comments of citizens, and I hope that these comments can be examined in the correct manner.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 8:45:12 PM

**Commenter Name** Garry Burch  
**City** Valparaiso **County** PORTER **State** Indiana  
**E-Mail Address** HESafety@aol.com

**Comments** I would like to see the centerfire rifle law come into effect. But, with an age restriction of 12 years old being the youngest to hunt with a rifle. This would be a line Indiana with other surrounding states laws. A Hunter education card would also be required under the states provision of law.

**Comment Received** 12/17/2014 9:06:41 PM

**Commenter Name** ALLISON BERRY  
**City** VALLONIA **County** JACKSON **State** IN  
**E-Mail Address** allison.berry@ymail.com

**Comments** I am strongly opposed to allowing center fire rifles for deer hunting in Indiana. I feel that the justifications given do not hold water. There is no rifle loaded from the muzzle that can reliably take deer like a center fire rifle as claimed. I have spent a good deal of time shooting muzzle loader rifles and even the smokeless rifles fall below what I would consider ethical at 300 yards. Certain center fire rifles can maintain enough knock down power past 1000 yards. I also realize center fire rifles are legal for varmints. On opening day of Coyote season there may be one or two hunters with center fire rifles hunting the area around my home. On opening day of firearms season I have counted as many as 35 trucks in the same area. I am surrounded by State owned property that receives heavy hunting pressure. Indiana is in the top 8 of hunter densities and that is only compounded on public ground. The new rule would allow SKS, AR10, and AK47 rifles that can hold 20 to 100 round magazines. It is not uncommon to hear 5 shots in a row and I fear I may soon hear 30 shots as deer run wildly. I realize that center fire rifles are legal as handguns however I do not see one bad law justifying another. I do feel that the 30-30, 45-70, and 35 Remington are all lever action rifles that would compare to modern muzzleloaders and are common calibers owned by Hoosier. Is there room to consider making these calibers legal and keeping the 1.8 rule? The 1.8 rule was created by the DNR and that rule created its own economy. Thousands of hunters have spent hard earned money on custom rifles to comply with Indiana law. These rifles will be made virtually worthless as they will no longer be the most effective round and the struggles of custom ammunition will make them virtual paper weights. The DNR created this economy that has seen custom gun shops pop up all over the country. I spent \$330 on a barrel from Montana made just for Indiana law and another \$175 on reloading dies just to get started. I am one of many that will have a rifle worth upwards of \$1000 today that will be worth around \$300 for the action of the rifle if this rule passes. I know of at least one local shop producing their own ammunition and rifles that will be going out of business. The DNR created this economy, and I suppose they can tear it down.

I would ask that there be some sort of a compromise allowing common lever actions such as the 30-30 while still keeping the 1.8 rule and eliminating magnum rifles.

I would plea to not allow center fire rifles on state owned property.